Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Bordallo takes part in pandemic exercise. **PAGE 2**

Fighting cancer at 13 years old. **PAGE 5**

# 'Medicaid cap hurts NMI's poor'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Insurance coverage for healthcare in the CNMI is very limited and is hobbled by limited Medicaid coverage that particularly hurts low-income residents, according to the CNMI Department of Public Health.

Most families find that the economic growth burden of carrying health insurance is too high, according to Benjamin Seman, chairman of the CNMI Cancer Control Coalition.

The CNMI's Medicaid coverage is available only to U.S. citizens and follows the U.S. poverty guidelines. As such, all assets, including property, are all taken into account when determining eligibility.

*See HEALTH on Page 4*

# 'Federalization bill is cleared for Senate OK'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Tenorio

Legislation placing local immigration under federal control may be brought to the Senate floor for action early next month, according to the CNMI representative to the nation's capital.

*See TENORIO on Page 4*

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and members of the 16th Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature and the 10th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council gather for a group picture during the Inaugural Mass at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon.

# Bishop to lawmakers: Seek wisdom and pass it on to future

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Bishop Tomas B. Camacho urged incoming lawmakers yesterday to seek wisdom and pass it on to the next generation.

In his homily during a Mass for the 16th Legislature, Camacho called "a new beginning" the Monday inauguration of the newly elected leaders.

"It is a time of hope. It is a time when we look to the future and think that perhaps you, our leaders, will have the wisdom to guide us through difficult times," the bishop said.

He said the leaders have a difficult task ahead of them, and urged them to seek wisdom as did the biblical character Solomon. One way to do this, he added, is to know one's roots.

*See CATHOLIC on Page 4*

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**OPINION METER**

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INSIDE

**Garden Antiques**
By their age and rarity, garden antiques add a unique character–an aura, really–to the spaces they define.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 11

**Missing Marine**

Authorities said Friday they believe they found the shallow grave of a pregnant Marine who went missing in December.

NATION...Page 17

**Hannah Stand-In**
The use of a brief stand-in for Miley Cyrus is causing plenty of buzz on the Internet.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 22

# Around the CNMI

# Pete A. employees take 10 pct. pay cut

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Employees at the Washington Representative's Office have taken a 10-percent pay cut in anticipation of the agency's reduced budget this fiscal year.

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said yesterday that the new contracts of his employees in D.C. and in the Commonwealth reflect 10-percent cuts and 25-percent housing allowance cuts.

WRO employs seven employees in Washington, excluding Tenorio, three on Saipan, and one on Rota.

"They all accepted the pay cut. They understand that we have a limited budget," Tenorio said.

He said he looks forward to working with the incoming Legislature on the issue of funding for his office. He said he needs about $900,000, much less than the $1.33 million given his office under the previous budget law.

"I am not asking for much, just enough to keep my staff and continue our programs in Washington," he said.

The 15th House of Representatives passed a budget of $950,000 for WRO. However, the appropriation bill died in the Senate.

The incoming Legislature is expected to take up the budget bill immediately after its inauguration tomorrow, Jan. 14, 2008.

Tenorio originally proposed a $1.29-million budget for WRO for fiscal year 2008.

This proposal included $131,760 for retirement contributions; $126,000 for the subsistence allowance for seven D.C.-based employees; $60,000 for his trips between D.C. and Saipan, as well as to other destinations within the United States; $34,000 for his official residence; $24,000 for cleaning services; and $15,000 for utilities at the D.C. and Saipan offices and his residence.

Submitted in March 2007, Tenorio's proposal also included $60,000 for the office's current legal consultant, and $40,000 to fund the hiring of another lobbying firm in D.C. to assist with federal wage and immigration bill proposals affecting the CNMI. The bill is now on its way to passage in the Senate.

"The current budget proposal has been decreased from previous years' with the realization that the CNMI government is cash-strapped and undergoing severe budget shortfalls. The Office of the Resident Representative is committed to doing its part in cost-effective expenditures and administering cost-cutting measures," Tenorio wrote in his budget proposal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, near bottom of picture, is joined by other participants in the Pandemic Tempest Exercise held at the Asian-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii.

## Bordallo takes part in pandemic exercise

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo returned to Washington, D.C. yesterday after traveling in the Pacific Rim with a bipartisan congressional delegation led by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri, the Republican Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The congressional delegation spent Jan. 1-2, 2008, in Guam before visiting Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand to participate in high-level discussions with government representatives on matters of mutual interests to their countries and the United States, including regional trade, security, and diplomacy.

In Guam, the delegation met with local and military leaders, toured Guam's military bases including the National Guard Readiness Center in Barrigada, and reviewed the on-the-ground planning associated the military buildup.

On Friday, while in Honolulu, during the congressional delegation's final stop, Bordallo was one of two members of the delegation to join U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, as well as Hawaii Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona, and Peter Verga, the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense, in participating in the Pandemic Tempest Exercise.

The exercise was held at the Asian-Pacific Center for Security Studies and coordinated by the National Defense University and the United States Pacific Command. It was a crisis simulation exercise providing a forum for federal and local officials to explore an urgent real-world crisis arising from an outbreak of pandemic influenza, to identify national response needs and protocols in the event of such a crisis, and to discuss requirements for effective integration of preparation and response efforts across all levels of government.

"The exercise is important for coordination in the event of catastrophic pandemic influenza. Our community knows preparation when it comes to typhoons, but we must be equally prepared to respond to any crisis that may reach our shores, and avian flu is a serious public health issue," Bordallo said. "Our community is vulnerable given our location to outbreak areas in Asia. The exercise gave me an opportunity to work closely with federal policy makers and our Hawaii counterparts, and it gave us all a broad perspective with which to approach response planning."

Rep. Bob Etheridge of North Carolina, who is a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and part of the visiting congressional delegation, also participated in the exercise.

The exercise allowed participants to collaboratively address national security issues ranging from domestic demands of disease surveillance, vaccine and antiviral dissemination, and health care infrastructure and capacity to respond to an outbreak. Video and graphics were used to simulate real situations. The exercise objectives were to examine the impact of change in three variables—robustness and capacity of the health care system, non-pharmaceutical response measures, and demographics—on policy choices.

"I continue to work to strengthen federal resources for our local response capabilities for an avian flu outbreak, to prepare our community to control disease transmission, and to disseminate information to the public in the event of an emergency," Bordallo said. "This exercise helped hone some of the key policy choices that we as government officials must work together to address and that we in the Pacific face on an ongoing basis." ***(PR)***

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# Fighting cancer at 13

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In January 2006, when she was only 13 years old, Rica Shavonne Hamilton Ada was diagnosed with cancer.

The moment her doctor told her the drastic news, Ada said she didn't know what to feel at that particular instant.

"I didn't know what to feel at the moment. I just kept wondering, 'Why me, of all people', 'What did I do?', I was really angry, worried, and mostly scared."

Her youthful vigor, however, served her in good stead. When February came around, she was ready to face her battle. Ada was referred to Shriner's Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii where doctors confirmed that she had Ewing Sarcoma, a cancer that affects the humerus, the bone in the upper arm.

Ada said she underwent limb surgery to remove the tumor from her right arm. After her surgery, she had to undergo a series of 14 treatments of chemotherapy and a month and a half long of radiation.

"That was the worst of all my ordeals. I was feeling sick all the time, I lost my hair and I hated the fact that I was away from my family," Ada said.

As time passed, though, Ada said she came to terms with her disease. As she described it, "I started to feel comfortable with my deck of cards."

"I wanted to be well and strong so that I can come back home and share my story with other people," said Ada.

From Shriner's Hospital, Ada was transferred to the Ronald McDonald House, a place that she called "A home away from home."

For a period of eight months at her second home, Ada said she met many great people who helped her accept her sickness and became her inspiration.

Ada explained that everyday of her life while she was in Hawaii was "always challenging. From chemo to radiation, you name it," she said.

"But in the end, I came through it with a positive attitude and results to be thankful for," Ada said.

During the trying times, Ada said her faith and the faith of her family helped her overcome her fears and gave her the strength to fight.

"To my fellow survivors, young or old, male or female, always remember, there is hope out there, but it must begin with you. Believe in yourself, have faith in God, for tomorrow He will bring better and brighter days," Ada said.

# Chlamydia, gonorrhoea testing, treatment pilot in Cook Islands

**RAROTONGA, Cook Islands**—People living in the Cook Islands will now be able to access simple testing and treatment for chlamydia, a sexually transmitted infection that, if left untreated, can lead to increased risk of infertility or early miscarriage.

The Cook Islands Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health, with support from SPC's HIV & STI Section and Public Health Surveillance & Communicable Disease Control Section and with funding from the Asian Development Bank, is participating in a 12-month pilot program to enable access to testing and treatment for chlamydia and gonorrhoea. Testing and treatment have become much simpler and more affordable in recent years with the availability of more accurate tests that can be used on urine samples, and single-dose antibiotic treatment.

In the Cook Islands, chlamydia testing occurred for a period a few years ago but ceased due to high costs. More recently, a survey revealed high rates of chlamydia infection among pregnant women.

"This led to the ministry exploring opportunities to respond to the issue urgently," said Cook Islands Health Secretary Dr Roro Daniel. "These findings probably represent only the tip of the iceberg, so we need to do everything possible to immediately reduce chlamydia infection incidence and prevalence and therefore reproductive health tract complications, particularly among our women."

Second-generation surveillance studies conducted in the last few years in several Pacific Island countries and territories identified very high rates of chlamydia infection, particularly among those aged 15–30. In most men and women chlamydia does not have any symptoms or may have only mild symptoms, such as discharge or low abdominal pain in women, which often go unnoticed. Improving access to testing will make it easier to obtain an accurate diagnosis and provide opportunities for treatment with the appropriate antibiotic.

Testing and treatment in the Cook Islands will initially be available in Rarotonga and will then be rolled out to the outer islands early in 2008. Testing, which can be done using a urine sample, will be offered routinely to men and women aged 15–30, as well as to women attending their first antenatal check-up. Treatment involves the administration of just one tablet.

A chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing and treatment pilot is also planned for Solomon Islands in 2008. ***(SPC)***

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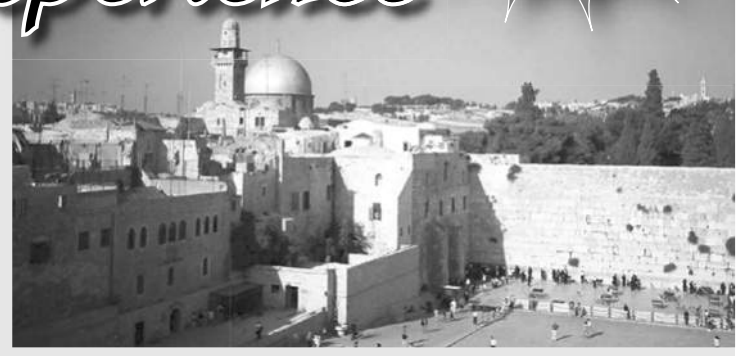

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# US lawmakers praise A. Samoa soldiers

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa** (Samoa News/PIR)—Several members of the U.S. Congress praised the service of American Samoa's sons and daughters in the military during a bipartisan congressional trip to the territory Friday.

U.S. House majority leader Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md) led the delegation, which were here for two hours as part of a tour of the Pacific region.

The group—which arrived via a federal government plane and included House minority whip U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO) and 10 other congressional members—were greeted by a local delegation led by Lt. Gov. Ipulasi A. Sunia.

The delegates include Reps. Ben Chandler, D-Ky.; Emmanuel Cleaver, D-Mo.; Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo.; Bob Etheridge, D-N.C.; Kay Granger, R-Texas; Baron Hill, D-Ind.; Ray LaHood, R-Ill.; John Lewis, D-Ga.; Debbie Wasserman Shultz, D-Fla.; and Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga.

The delegation was informed that Gov. Togiola Tulafono was unable to welcome them because he was in the hospital, and Hoyer then extended the group's best wishes to the governor for full recovery.

The newspaper, The Australian, reported early this week that the delegation arrived in Australia over the weekend for meetings with the country's leadership. It says the delegation is on a tour of countries in the region including Vietnam and New Zealand.

At the Tafuna airport, Ipulasi officially welcomed the dignitaries adding that he understands that the delegation is interested in learning more about American Samoans serving in the military.

He said American Samoans have served proudly in all branches of the military and there are about 400 Samoans serving in Iraq. He reminded the delegation that American Samoan has the highest Iraq fatality rate, per capital, than any other state in the nation.

"Our participation [in Iraq] is one of the things we are proud of," said Ipulasi, who noted that American Samoa is proud of its sons and daughters serving in the Middle East. He said American Samoa's patriotism is well known, with residents putting up yellow ribbons all over the island.

Ipulasi then introduced to the delegation his son, Army Pvt. Justin Sunia, who is serving in Iraq but is here on R&R.

To Pvt. Sunia, Hoyer said, "we're honored with your service" and noted that Faleomavaega has continued to fight hard for more benefits for veterans in American Samoa.

Besides the military, Hoyer said the US territories play important roles for the U.S., such as in economic development and other opportunities.

"You are the forefront, in the spear of our defense," he added.

In his brief remarks Blunt said, "We are grateful to the patriotism of Samoans in the military" not only in Iraq but other parts of the world fighting for democratic freedom.

Guam's Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo, who has visited the territory before, said that Guam and American Samoa share "the same frustrations" especially being far away from the U.S. mainland. She also noted that Guam and American Samoa have also made great commitments to the military.

After the brief press conference just outside of the VIP lounge, the delegation walked around the airport looking at the Fale Samoa and talked to some members of the community who were there.

Hoyer was seen introducing himself and talking to several passengers waiting for flights to Apia. He also met a group of people from the mainland visiting the territory who were enroute to Apia.

Congressman Faleomavaega Eni, who was informed by Hoyer that the delegation would make a brief stop here, said he told Hoyer about the needs of local veterans and the patriotism of our people.

Faleomavaega, who is in Israel with a Pacific delegation, said in a statement Hoyer is "a good man, an honest leader, and a hard worker with an impressive record of achievement."

**PLAY TIME** JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Japanese children enjoy playing at the Children's Play Area while waiting to board a plane inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

# 'Health care coverage very limited in NMI'

*From Page 1*

Seman said many low-income uninsured and underinsured people in the CNMI have homestead property. "Once the value of that property is taken into account, these applicants no longer qualify for Medicaid," he said.

The CNMI is operating under a 50-50 matching fund arrangement with the federal Medicaid programs. However, the federal share is capped at a fixed amount regardless of the total Medicaid cost. During fiscal years 2004 and 2005 the cap was set at $2.38 million. This was recently raised to $3.48 million in Fiscal Year 2006 and $4.58 million in FY 2007. Anything above the cap is shouldered by the CNMI government. Expenditures of the local Medicaid program average $10 million a year.

The CNMI government has been asking the U.S. government to remove the cap and to increase the federal share of Medicaid costs to around 77 percent, which is what U.S. mainland states get.

According to Seman, a major challenge Medicaid recipients face, as well as insured individuals under the government sponsored insurance, is their inability to seek health care services from private providers.

"This has been a key limiting factor to adequate access to healthcare," said Seman.

In the Kagman Community Health Survey that DPH did between the months April and May 2004, it found that 91 percent of respondents cited distance and lack of transportation as major factors for not getting health care for their family; 75 percent receive their health care from public health facilities; 61.7 percent do not get regular medical care for their chronic illness due to financial issues, lack of transportation, and distance to nearest facility; 37.3 percent were covered by Medicaid; 22.5 percent were covered by government health insurance; and 10.7 percent were uninsured.

Kagman is one of the fastest growing villages in the CNMI, with a projected growth of 10,000 residents since 2004.

The Kagman Community Health Survey was intended to examine the health care status and health care needs of residents in Kagman. About 458 residents participated in the house-to-house survey.

"The challenge in reducing health disparities involves adequate health insurance coverage as well as increased funding for the Medicaid program," Seman said.

There are currently, 8,723 people that are enrolled in the program.

# Tenorio: US Senate may act on bill by Feb.

*From Page 1*

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said that S. 2483, which includes the CNMI immigration federalization, has been cleared for unanimous approval by the U.S. Senate.

"I am hopeful that the bill will go through in the first week of February. I cannot say for sure about the timing of passage, as the Senate has a full schedule. But there is no question it will be taken up," Tenorio said in an interview after the inaugural Mass for the 16th Legislature yesterday.

If the Senate passes S. 2483 without amendments, the omnibus bill may go straight to President Bush for signature. But if there are amendments, the bill will have to return to the House for concurrence.

On Dec. 11, 2007, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3079. The bill would extend immigration law and create a federally run guest-worker program in the Commonwealth.

The bill would also give the CNMI a delegate in the House with limited voting powers. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress.

Two days later, Sen. Jeff Bingaman introduced H.R. 3079 as part of S. 2483, a package of some 50 bills that have already passed the House. This is seen to speed up passage of the federalization bill, as the Senate version is now identical to the House version.

"I believe everything included within this bill is non-controversial and it is my hope that the Senate will pass this bill expeditiously," Bingaman said when he introduced S. 2483 on the floor on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007.

S. 2483 is titled the National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 2007.

# Catholic prelate calls for 'a new beginning'

*From Page 1*

"As leaders of this community, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, know your own heritage as Chamorro and Carolinian. Cherish that heritage and let its wisdom guide your decisions," he said.

He also told the legislators to never seek their own benefit, and to be just in making decisions.

"While you should remember the wisdom of your parents and their parents as you make decisions, seek wisdom wherever it is found. There is wisdom to be found and put to good use, if carefully applied, among the other traditions that are now part of the life of our community," Camacho said.

The bishop urged the lawmakers to keep the next generation in mind as they do their jobs.

"A good leader is one who receives responsibility for the care of his community with respect and passes on to the next generation a better place to live in, than when he or she received it.

"This requires you not only to be careful for the health of the community which you pass on to the next generation, but you must be sure that the next generation is ready to receive this gift when they come of age," he said.

To prepare the children, they must be educated in their heritage, in Christian values, and in the practical skills they will need to contribute to the community.

"They need opportunities to become involved in the life of the community and to learn leadership through experience. They need leaders who they can look up to, whose examples will be a light by which they can model their own lives," he said.

## PACIFIC BRIEFS

### Tropical storm moves away, south of Tonga

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (Radio New Zealand International, Jan. 10) – Tonga's Emergency Management Office is monitoring a cyclone south of the country. Forecasters are warning to expect sustained winds of 35 knots close to the centre of the cyclone. It is expected to track southwards over open seas, and should be 400 kilometres southeast of Tonga by midnight tonight. Deputy directory of the Emergency Management Office, Maliu Takia, says they were hoping the depression wouldn't turn into a cyclone. "We don't expect this cyclone to make any landfall because it is far down to the south of the main island," he said. "In this direction it should be gradually moving away from the island. We'll have to stay on alert until we are certain that the threat is gone."

### Fiji runs short of sugar, imports 20,000 tons

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fiji Times/PIR)—The first consignment of 1,040 tons of imported sugar arrived in the country on Tuesday. Fiji Sugar Marketing Company managing director, Viliame Savou said supplies would be spread over a period of five months and distributed from the Lautoka Mill. The shortage of sugar for local consumption forced the company to import about 20,000 tons from India.

### Solomons lawyer named acting attorney general

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands** (Solomon Times/PIR)—Solomon Islands government is offering private lawyer, Gabriel Suri, to be acting Attorney General. Suri, who earlier told local media that he's ready to take the job provided the government met his conditions, will be acting Attorney General for the next six months. The private lawyer has been instrumental in defending the Opposition, now the government led by Dr. Derek Sikua, in the political impasse which led to the ousting of the Sogavare-led government. Government's Chief of Staff, Matthew Wale, told SIBC that Suri's appointment should help restore the credibility to the Attorney General's office.

# Things starting to look up for Wakai Nekko

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Hideo Kato, the president and founder of the Wakai Nekko No Kai, has been able to pay off 2.7 million yen, or a little over $200,000, of his financial mortgage predicament, increasing the chances of the ocean university's return to the islands.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority director JM Guerrero, "only 1.7 million yen balance remain."

He said that Kato thanks his Saipan friends "for their heartfelt support to assist him with his financial predicament to pay off the mortgage guaranteed on behalf of the Nekko house for last year's voyage."

The "Friends of Wakai Nekko" committee has scheduled three marathon events for Jan. 19 that would kick off a series of fundraisers to help save the ocean university.

The three marathon events are the 10K, full-marathon, and half marathon. The 10K marathon will start from the MVA office in San Jose down to the Pacific Islands' Club and back. The half-marathon will start from Micro Beach down to PIC and back to Micro Beach; and the full marathon will start from Micro Beach up to Marpi and then down to PIC and back to Micro Beach. Registrations for the marathon events will begin at 6am and the marathons will commence at 6:30am or 7am.

Students, ocean university alumni and other community members are encouraged to join these fundraising events.

Yoichi Matsumura of Pacific Development Inc. said that the committee will ask the Saipan Walking Association, or SAIWAI, whose president is Jesus T. Deleon Guererro, if they can donate the proceeds collected during from this year's Valentine's Day walk.

"He [Deleon Guerrero] is a very good friend of Kato-san," said Mutsumura.

The ocean university has been visiting Saipan for 39 years.

The Wakai Nekko No Kai, according to Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, has benefited many students in the CNMI but because of its financial predicament, their 40th year visit remains in an indeterminate state.

"That is why we are working our best to come up with numerous ideas and looking for other avenues to ensure that that does not happen," Tudela said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Northwest Missouri State University's Dr. Patricia Lucido facilitates the six-week science camp at the Ladera International School.

# LISS Science Camp begins

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ladera International School's Science Camp is now in session, according to science instructor Dr. Patricia Lucido from the Northwest Missouri State University.

Lucido is on Saipan for two weeks to conduct the winter season of the science camp.

Over 20 students from the third to the ninth grade are currently participating in this winter's six-week science camp.

According to Lucido, the camp aims to help students meet their educational needs and open doors of opportunity for the students to reach their full potential.

"It gives students the chance to explore science, learn and just have fun with it," said Lucido.

The science camp is being conducted twice a year at the LISS during the winter and summer seasons: four weeks during the summer and six weeks during the winter.

Lucido said when she concludes her two-week session, Dr. Marilyn Rhea, also from NMSU, will come and take over to finish up the camp's remaining winter weeks.

"The kids have been very interested and entertained. It's about learning and having fun," said Lucido.

Students are encouraged to join the science camp. Interested individuals may call 288-2006/7.

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for it's patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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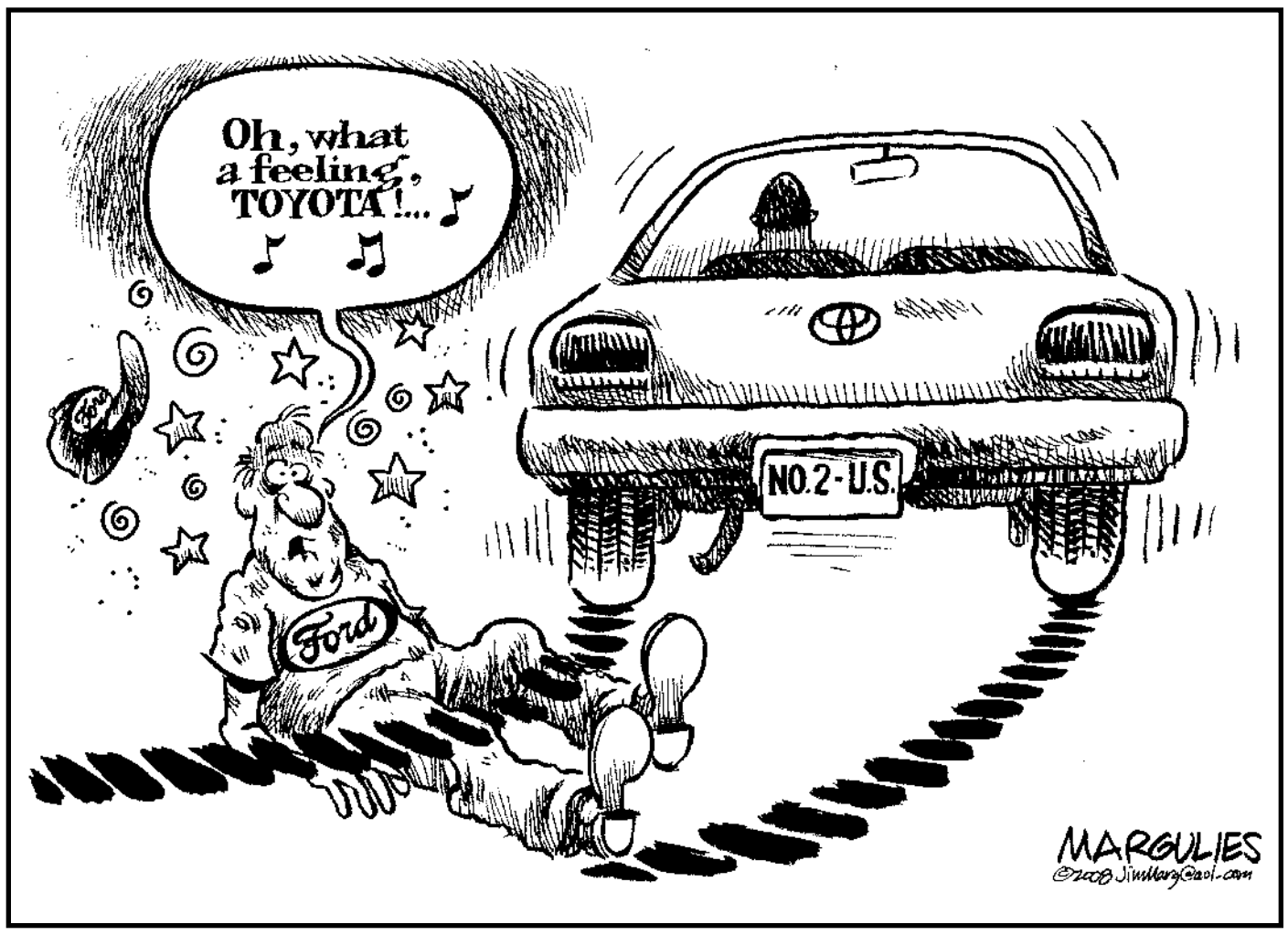
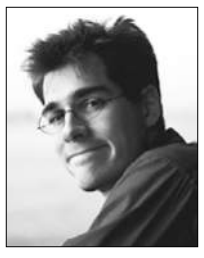
# EDITORIAL



[redacted]

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.



Times have changed since I was first elected governor of Vermont in 1984. When I walked into the executive office the morning after the election, I scanned the portraits of somber governors with names like Ebenezer, Erastus and Ezra. They stared down at me as if to say, "What are you doing here?" When 9-year-old Melissa Campbell visited the Vermont State House in 2006 and came upon my portrait, she exclaimed, "Finally, a woman—it's about time!"

Is it about time for a woman to be president? Are we ready? The answer is that some parts of the country are more ready than others. And it may have to do with the number of women who have been elected to high office in those states.

Forget the pollsters' predictions and apologies for getting it all wrong in New Hampshire. Iowa and New Hampshire have different political histories and cultures with regard to electing women, and it showed in how they voted. Similar differences among states may play out in the voting to come this month and on Super Tuesday in February.

New Hampshire elected a popular female governor three times, and it has the nation's second-highest percentage of women in its legislature—35.8 percent. (My state ranks first, at 37.8 percent.) Iowa hovers near the national average, at 22.7 percent, but it is one of two states (the other is Mississippi) that have never elected a woman to Congress or the governor's seat. Women in high office are not visible to Iowa's electorate.

Women came out in droves for the recent Democratic voting in both New Hampshire and Iowa. The numbers in the two states were nearly identical—57 percent women and 43 percent men. But in New Hampshire those women supported Sen. Hillary Clinton over Sen. Barack Obama 46 to 29 percent, while in Iowa they backed Obama 35 to 30 percent.

Why the difference?

Aside from having elected a woman as governor, New Hampshire has become accustomed to seeing women wield the legislative gavel. Both its House speaker and Senate president are women. Their voices and their faces are on the nightly news. It's not startling to see women in power, because they are there in significant numbers. Their hairstyles, color choices and range of emotions are less newsworthy because they are no longer one of a kind.

When researching my forthcoming book, I concluded that electing women is contagious. The more you see, the more you get. The states with two female U.S. senators—Washington, California and Maine—also have large female congressional delegations and a high percentage of women in their state legislatures. Washington has the added bonus of a female governor. These elected women serve as powerful role models for other women, who see them in action and ask themselves, why not?

They have the further effect of demonstrating to the voters that the diversity that women bring to the political process has its rewards: new ideas, priorities and leadership styles.

When I ran for governor, was I ambitious? Yes. Anyone, male or female, who goes through the trials of a campaign must be ambitious. But can a woman be seen as openly seeking power? Power is an explosive word, particularly when applied to women. It is one of the arrows that is shot at Clinton. Women, many believe, are not supposed to want power.

Female voters, in the final hours before the New Hampshire primary, suddenly got it: Running for president is different for a woman than it is for a man. The difference became clear when Clinton's voice quavered and she showed deep emotion while meeting with a group of women at a diner. It was a "just us girls" moment, when she felt she could let her hair down and they would understand.

A lot of New Hampshire women apparently did.

Time will tell whether the country understands. Clinton has been both applauded and mocked for loosening her control over her psyche a notch. But the diner incident wasn't all there was to it. Some women I spoke to were tired of seeing Clinton attacked and were not ready to let go of the possibility that a woman might be elected president.

When the campaigns turn to Nevada, South Carolina and beyond, will women continue to turn out for Clinton in large numbers? South Carolina will be tough. It has the distinction of ranking at the bottom in the percentage of women in its legislature: 8.8 percent. There are not many female role models to guide voters, and the tradition that a Southern woman's place is in the home still lingers in some quarters.

Nevada and Florida provide friendlier territory. Nevada's legislature is 30.2 percent female, and women hold the statewide offices of attorney general, treasurer and controller. In Florida's legislature, 23.1 percent of the members are women, and the state has five women in Congress.

The more women head legislative bodies, like U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the more women who hold state elective offices, the less often it will be asked whether the country is "ready for a female president."

New Hampshire is ready. As for the rest of the nation, the next primaries may give us the answer.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲84° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲84° ▼76° | ▲83° ▼74° | ▲82° ▼74° |

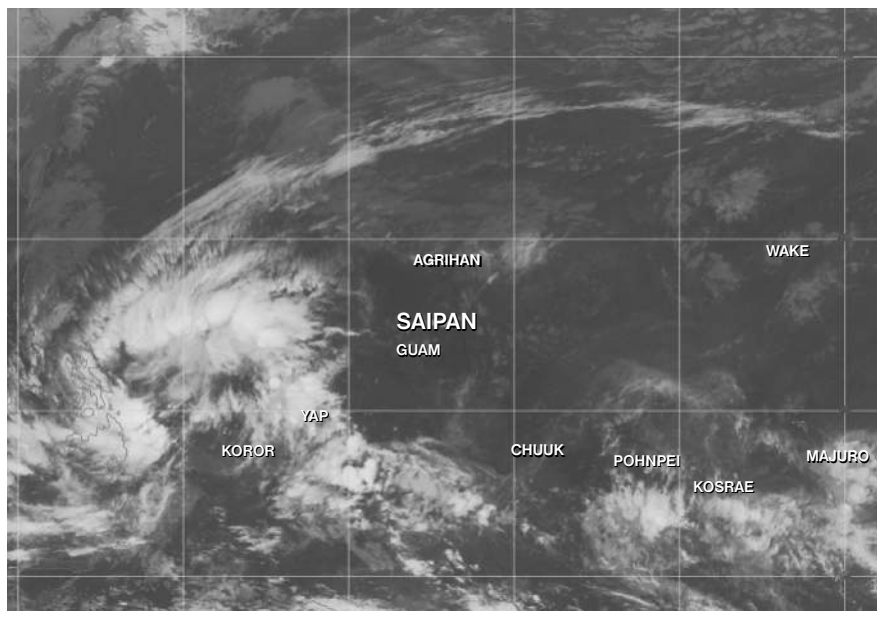
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Cloudy | ▲89 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Mostly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Partly Sunny | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼74 |
| Kosrae | Mostly Sunny | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲82 | ▼74 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | ▲73 | ▼61 |
| Beijing | Mostly Cloudy | ▲26 | ▼14 |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | ▲75 | ▼63 |
| Honolulu | Cloudy | ▲79 | ▼66 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲46 | ▼39 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲71 | ▼48 |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | ▲82 | ▼75 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | ▲79 | ▼57 |
| Miami | Partly Sunny | ▲79 | ▼60 |
| New York | Mostly Cloudy | ▲43 | ▼38 |
| Osaka | Cloudy | ▲37 | ▼29 |
| Paris | Cloudy | ▲42 | ▼37 |
| Pusan | Cloudy | ▲42 | ▼29 |
| Rome | Cloudy | ▲53 | ▼39 |
| Salem | Partly Sunny | ▲43 | ▼32 |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | ▲59 | ▼41 |
| Seoul | Partly Sunny | ▲34 | ▼15 |
| Tokyo | Partly Sunny | ▲55 | ▼42 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | ▲45 | ▼39 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, JAN. 12, 2008**
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An old shear line runs along 22N from 180 to about 150E. Scattered light showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. South of the shear line, trade-wind disturbances are producing scattered showers west of Wake Island between 15N and 18N from 156E to 161E, around Wake Island between 15N and 20N from 164E to 172E, and near the date line between 18N and 20N from 176E to 180. A near-equatorial trough extends from 4N130E to EQ141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are occurring mainly near and south of Palau, in the area bounded by EQ131E to Koror to EQ140E back to EQ131E. Scattered showers are also found farther east between the equator and 2N from 148E to 151E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers from Pohnpei eastward through the Marshall Islands, in the area bounded by 11N180 to 6N157E to 5N180 back to 11N180.

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 04:37AM Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |
| 11:27AM Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |
| 05:38PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.9 Feet |
| 10:34PM Today | High Tide: | 1.7 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:46AM | 6:04PM |
| Monday | 6:46AM | 6:05PM |
| Tuesday | 6:47AM | 6:06PM |
| Wednesday | 6:47AM | 6:06PM |
| Thursday | 6:47AM | 6:07PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:01AM | 10:18PM |
| Monday | 10:39AM | 11:11PM |
| Tuesday | 11:19AM | 12:41AM* |
| Wednesday | 12:01PM | 1:05AM* |
| Thursday | 12:48PM | 2:07AM* |

*Following Day

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

**POLICY**

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 12, 2008

### DEPARTURES

**Saipan-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9317 | 5:00am | 5:50am | 1,2,4,5,6,7 |
| CO9597 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1,2,5,6 |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 10:00am | 3,4,7 via Rota |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | Daily |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |

**Saipan-Seoul**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ 604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| OZ 606 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2,4,6,7 |

**Saipan-Busan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 608 | 4:00am | 7:35am | 1,4,5,7 |

**Guam-Manila**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 891 | 6:00am | 10:30am | 3 via Yap and Koror |
| CO 893 | 6:30am | 8:05am | 6 |
| CO 893 | 8:25am | 10:00am | 2 |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 8:00pm | 9:40pm | Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:45am | 1,2,4,6,7 |

**Saipan-Manila**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 895 | 4:45pm | 6:35pm | 6 |
| CO 895 | 6:45pm | 8:35pm | 3 |

**Saipan-Nagoya**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 078 | 8:30am | 11:10am | Daily |

**Guam-Nagoya**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 971 | 7:45am | 10:30am | 1,2,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 023 | 4:15pm | 7:05pm | Daily |
| CO 904 | 4:35pm | 7:25pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Narita**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 078 | 8:30am | 1:30pm | Daily via Nagoya |
| NW 075 | 4:55pm | 7:30pm | Daily |

**Guam-Narita**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JO 982 | 4:15am | 7:00am | Daily |
| CO 961 | 7:20am | 9:55am | Daily |
| CO 006 | 1:00pm | 3:45pm | Daily |
| JO 942 | 3:30pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| NW 081 | 3:55pm | 6:50pm | Daily |
| NW 073 | 4:15pm | 7:00pm | Daily |
| CO 963 | 4:50pm | 7:30pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Osaka**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 083 | 4:30pm | 7:25pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Shanghai**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU 590 | 4:20am | 7:00am | 2,6 |

**Guam-Hongkong**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 910 | 7:45pm | 10:40pm | 1,5 |

**Saipan-Guanzhou**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ 3008 | 5:00am | 8:00am | 2,6 |

**Saipan-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9313 | 8:30am | 9:05am | 3,4,7 |

**Rota-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9313 | 9:30am | 10:00am | 3,4,7 |

### ARRIVALS

**Guam-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am | 1,4,5,6,7 |
| CO 9316 | 3:30am | 4:20am | 2 |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| CO9598 | 10:15am | 11:45am | 1,2,6 via Rota |
| CO9600 | 10:45am | 11:35am | 3,4,5,7 |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |

**Seoul-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 2,4,6,7 |
| OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 10:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 |
| OZ 607 | 6:50pm | 2:50am+1 | 3,7 via Busan |
| OZ 607 | 7:30pm | 2:50am+1 | 4 via Busan |

**Busan-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 607 | 9:30pm | 2:50am+1 | 3,4,6,7 |

**Manila-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 894 | 11:20am | 4:55pm | 2 |
| CO 894 | 7:45pm | 1:20am+1 | 6 |
| CO 892 | 9:45pm | 5:25am+1 | 3 via Koror |
| CO 892 | 9:45pm | 6:30am+1 | 3 via Koror and Yap |
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 5 via Koror |
| CO 934 | 11:10pm | 4:40am+1 | Daily |
| PR 110 | 10:15pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7 |

**Manila-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 890 | 9:15am | 2:55pm | 6 |
| CO 890 | 11:45am | 5:35pm | 3 |

**Nagoya-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 077 | 8:45pm | 1:10am+1 | Daily |

**Nagoya-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 024 | 10:00am | 2:40pm | Daily |
| CO 970 | 11:30am | 4:00pm | Daily |
| CO 905 | 8:25pm | 12:50am+1 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |

**Narita-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 076 | 10:35am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| NW 077 | 6:15pm | 1:10am+1 | Daily via Nagoya |

**Narita-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JO 941 | 9:30am | 2:05pm | Daily |
| NW 074 | 9:45am | 2:25pm | Daily |
| CO 962 | 11:05am | 3:35pm | Daily |
| CO 007 | 5:15pm | 9:50pm | Daily |
| NW 082 | 8:30pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |
| CO 964 | 8:40pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |
| JO 981 | 9:30pm | 2:05am+1 | Daily |

**Osaka-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 084 | 10:40am | 3:10pm | Daily |

**Shanghai-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU 589 | 8:05am | 3:00am+1 | 1,5 |

**Hongkong-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 910 | 11:40pm | 6:20am+1 | 1,5 |

**Guanzhou-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ 3007 | 8:00pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,5 |

**Rota-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 11:10am | 11:45am | 1,2,6 |

**Guam-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 10:15am | 10:45am | 1,2,6 |

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## Schedule of Religious Services

**CATHOLIC**

**Mt. Carmel Cathedral**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

**Korean Center**
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

**Kristo Rai Parish**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

**Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish**
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

**Saint Jude Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

**San Antonio Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

**San Francisco de Borja-Rota**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

**San Isidro-Rota**
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

**San Jose (Oleai) Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

**San Roque Parish**
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

**San Vicente Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

**Santa Remedios**
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

**Santa Soledad**
Sunday: 7:30am

**PROTESTANT**

**Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan**
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

**Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

**Chinese Christian Church of Saipan**
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

**Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan**
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

**Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

**Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan**
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

**Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan**
Thursday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

**Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville**
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

**Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)**
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

**Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan**
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

**Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

**Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan**
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

**Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan**
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

**Missions Connection Ministry**
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

**Northern Marianas Christian Church**
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

**Saipan Bible Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

**Saipan Christian Church**
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

**Saipan Church of Christ**
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

**Saipan Community Church**
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan**
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

**First Baptist Church** (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

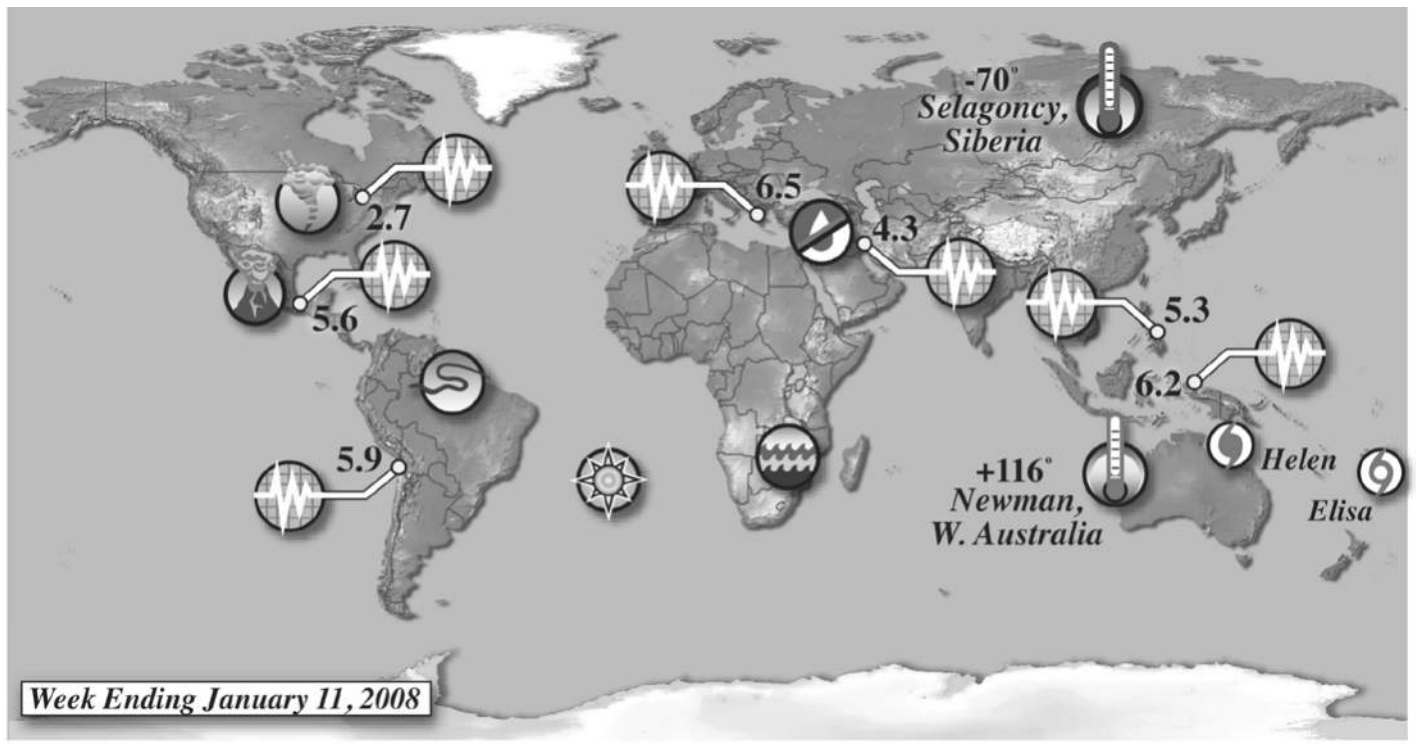
**Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center**
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
**Service Times**
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

**Upper Room International Ministries**
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon
English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

**Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

# Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

**By STEVE NEWMAN**




## Solar Spring

The sun appears to have begun a new 11-year cycle of activity with the early appearance of a new sunspot causing concern that some of the most powerful solar storms in decades could arrive in the next few years. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years." A sunspot is an area of intense magnetic activity on the surface of the sun. The new 11-year cycle, called Solar Cycle 24, is expected to build gradually, with the number of sunspots and solar storms reaching a maximum by 2011 or 2012. During a solar storm, highly charged particles ejected from the sun may head toward Earth, where they can bring down power grids, disrupt communications and threaten astronauts with harmful radiation.

## Winter Twisters

Record January warmth triggered a swarm of about 40 tornadoes across the American Midwest, where at least three people were killed by one twister that flattened homes in Missouri. One suspected tornado derailed a locomotive and 12 freight cars in Harvard, Ill. Such a tornado outbreak during winter is almost unheard of in the region, which usually receives the worst severe storms in spring and early autumn.

## Southern Cyclones

High winds from Tropical Cyclone Helen downed trees and caused widespread blackouts in Australia's Northern Territory.

■ Cyclone Elisa formed just to the south of Tonga in the South Pacific.

## African Inundations

Downpours from the wettest December on record in Zimbabwe and other southern African countries have unleashed flash floods that have displaced thousands of people, swept away livestock and destroyed crops in recent weeks. Zimbabwe has borne the brunt of the flooding, but waters up to 18 feet deep forced some people to seek refuge in trees and on rooftops in neighboring Mozambique. Roads and rail lines have been blocked by the floods, and the World Health Organization warns that the rising waters have increased the risk of malaria and other diseases in the region.

## Mexican Eruption

Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano produced a spectacular eruption that showered nearby communities with ash. Emergency officials said that the ash plume was the largest expelled by the mountain in the last seven years. Popocatepetl awakened from a dormant state in 1994, and has since produced numerous explosive eruptions. None of the blasts has directly threatened residents in the surrounding state of Puebla.

## Earthquakes

A 6.2 magnitude quake in Indonesia's easternmost Papua province damaged several homes, including some that were charred by fires ignited by the shaking.

■ A 6.5 magnitude quake centered in southern Greece's Peloponnese region was felt as far away as Rome, but no significant damage or injuries were reported.

■ Earth movements were also felt in southern Iran, the eastern Philippines, northern Chile, Guatemala and northeastern Ohio.

## Iraqi Drought

A lack of winter rains has created severe drought conditions across a wide area of Iraq, threatening water supplies and agriculture. Seeds planted in autumn have rotted or have been eaten by birds, according to Agriculture Minister Ali al-Bahadili. "If we get some rain in the coming weeks we will get some germination, but it is late. We will have to give seeds to farmers to catch up," he told AFP. The worst-affected area is in Nineveh province, where winter wheat crops have suffered from the lack of rainfall. The country's rainy season normally begins in October. The director of Iraq's meteorology department, Dawood Shakir, says he believes climate change may be the cause of the drought.

## Anaconda Rescue

A 7-year-old girl was saved from the grip of a giant anaconda about to drag her into Brazil's Amazon rain forest by a quick-thinking passer-by. Taxi driver Raimundo Carvalho heard the girl's screams as the 30-foot, 440-pound snake coiled itself around her legs and began dragging her off in the Alca Viaria district of Para state. Carvalho said he was stumped as to what to do, but said a young man identified only as "Miguel" arrived and quickly severed the snake's head with a machete. The G1 news portal reports that the girl suffered only slight injuries, but would have be killed by constriction and eaten had she not been rescued. Such attacks have increased in recent years due to deforestation, which experts say drives the snakes into inhabited areas in search of food.

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*www.earthweek.com*
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## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### 'Priest' with 7.7 lbs of coke arrested

**AMSTERDAM, Netherlands** (AP)—A man claiming to be a Catholic priest was arrested Friday at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport after he was caught carrying 7.7 pounds of cocaine under his robes, a spokesman for Dutch border police said. The suspect, whose identity was being traced, initially refused to undergo a routine body check "for religious reasons," spokesman Robert van Kapel said. He said the man was then spotted lining up at a different entrance gate. He was searched and the drugs were found in packages taped to his body. "We've seen a lot of things, baseballs filled with cocaine, wine bottles, plaster casts, but this is a first," Van Kapel said. He said the man, who was traveling from Bolivia, continued to insist he is a priest and did not confess any wrongdoing, arguing his rights had been violated by the search.

### Man finds pearl while eating oysters

**WASHINGTON BOROUGH, N.J.** (AP)—It's not often that a person orders a plate of fried oysters and walks away with a souvenir. But that's exactly what happened to Mike McHenry of Washington Township on Wednesday night when he thought he had chomped down on a piece of shell and instead spit out a pea-sized pearl. "You might break your teeth on it if you crunch down too hard," the 60-year-old Warren County man told The Express-Times of Easton, Pa., about his discovery at Russo's Ristorante in Washington Borough. McHenry's find was a rare one, according to Gef Flimlin, a marine extension agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, who said 95 percent of pearls are cultured for production, unlike the naturally formed pearl McHenry found. "It's unusual to find one in this type of oyster," McHenry said. "Like one in a million." Russo's owner Rick Giacobbe has been in the restaurant business for 33 years, but said this is the first time he's had a customer find a pearl in an order of oysters. He said the guy he orders seafood from is flummoxed too. "He said maybe once in a couple of years his girls will find something and it's a teeny tiny thing," Giacobbe said. "This was half the size of a jellybean."

# Good Housekeeping

# Gizmos lend electronic hand at home

By DAVID COLKER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LAS VEGAS**—Combine the audio level of a mosh pit, the schmoozing of a political convention and the food service of a FEMA event, and what do you get? The annual Consumer Electronics Show—the giant technology circus that this week invaded just about every convention venue and ballroom here with the latest TVs, appliances, robots and gadgets.

Amid the hoopla, numerous items on display promised to enhance home life. Many were at an event called "Digital Experience" at Caesars Palace. Others were spread around 2 million square feet at Las Vegas Convention Center. Some items were laughable, others sad. A precious few will be hits. Among the most noteworthy:

## STARRY NIGHT

What comes with a $50,000 bed? This model from Leggett & Platt includes an HDTV projector that pops up from the headboard, as well as speakers, Internet connectivity, dual temperature controls for the mattress, massage, an iPod dock, and programmable music and lighting settings for reading, awakening or romance.

And that's not all. A monitoring system can make a 911 call if one's breathing stops, and a snoring sensor tilts up the head 7 degrees.

"It opens the breathing passage," said company executive Mark Quinn.

And if the snoring continues?

"It goes up another 7 degrees," Quinn said.

A discount version, without the entertainment package and some other niceties (but with the anti-snore bit) is $20,000.

What ever happened to Magic Fingers?

## IROBOT LOOJ GUTTER CLEANER

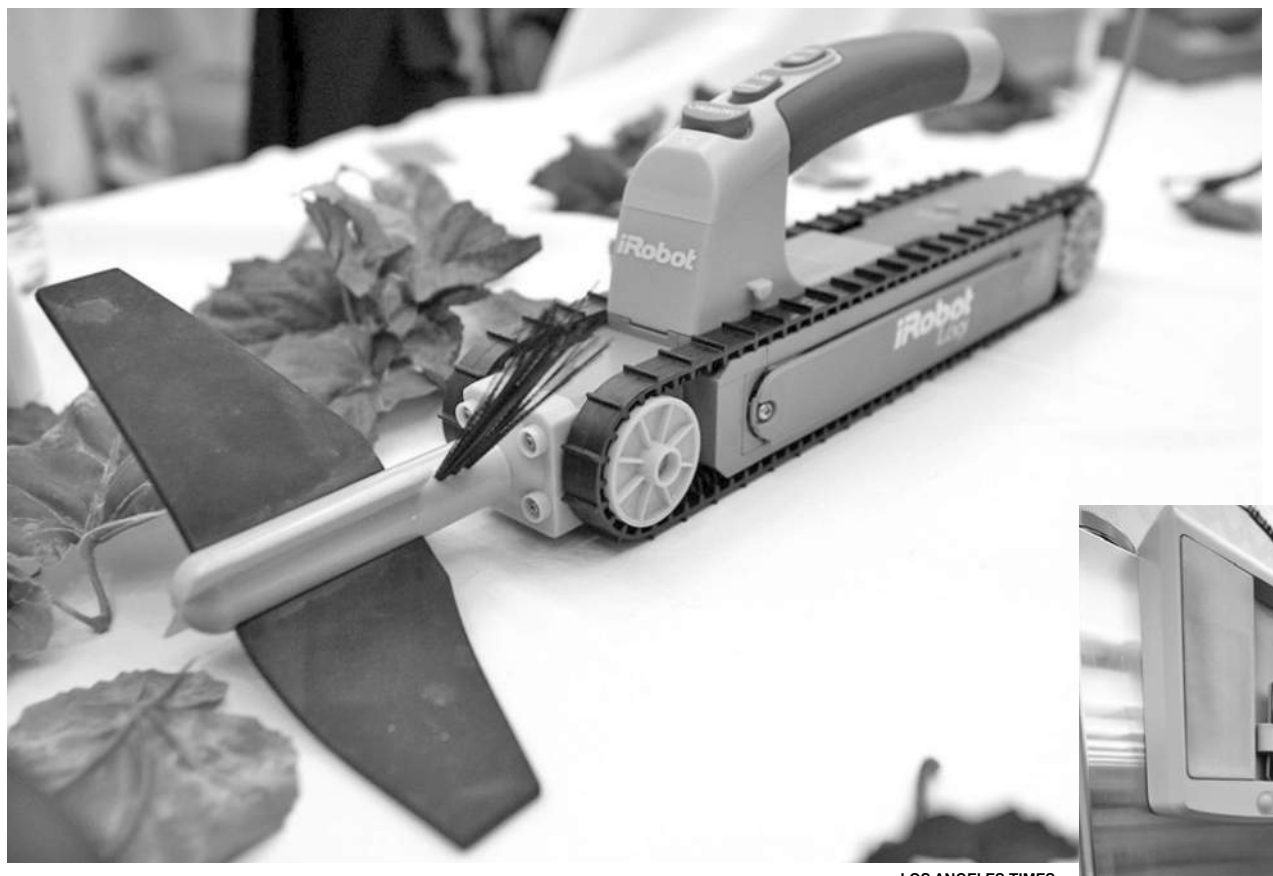
That's right, a robot gutter cleaner. Laugh if you like, but this gadget from the folks who produced the Roomba robotic vacuum was one of the hits of "Digital Experience."

It looks like a slender version of a portable vacuum cleaner, with stiff brushes and plastic fins coming out of one end. It's placed in a gutter clogged with leaves, mud and other gunk, then started with a remote controller that can be 100 feet away.

The little Looj goes back and forth in the gutter as the blades and fins blast out the yuk. (The demonstration used plastic leaves, but the device did seem powerful.)

And the inspiration for this product? "One of our engineers actually saw his neighbor fall off a ladder while cleaning the gutters," said iRobot spokeswoman Nancy Dussault Smith as she gathered leaves off the floor.

At $99, the Looj is cheaper than a visit to the emergency room.



LOS ANGELES TIMES
The iRobot Looj uses stiff brushes and fins to unclog gutters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Zoombak's collar transmitter can track a wandering Fido.

## WHIRLPOOL CENTRAL-PARK CONNECTION

Think of this as a $2,800 replacement for the kitchen magnet.

It's a refrigerator with a built-in dock to accept a custom PC. The computer screen, which hangs on the front of the fridge door, can show a shopping list, soccer schedules, baby pictures and all the stuff folks have been putting on their refrigerators for years with magnets.

The refrigerator costs $2,000 and the PC is $800. Extras are available for the dock, including a digital picture frame and an iPod speaker system.

The company said that eventually all of its refrigerators will be equipped with the docking system.

Note to Whirlpool: Just don't mess with the door ice dispenser.

Whirlpool's Centralpark refrigerator has a built-in dock for an iPod and PC.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

## LIGHTGLOVE

At almost every CES, at least one vendor shows a hands-free technology for switching on lights, controlling the TV set, playing video games and more with just a wave of the hand.

At times, these demonstrations resembled a magic show gone bad. But this small Virginia company might have made true progress with its a hand-signal controller.

The device looks like a wristwatch so hefty it would make a bling meister blush. To start the demonstration, company founder Bruce Howard twisted the device in the air a couple of times like a queen gesturing to her subjects, engaging the infrared technology.

Then he mimed playing a piano in the air, and his nearby laptop responded with Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." Howard didn't have to be an expert pianist—the software on the screen was from a Guitar Hero-type game that doesn't require musicianship.

He then played an on-screen pinball game, adding that the device could be programmed to do tasks around the house.

It's not cheap. The wrist device, which is scheduled to hit the market in the spring, is priced at $400. Appliance controllers will come later.

Sounded a bit like a high-tech Clapper for people too lazy to clap. But, said Howard, "think about what this could do for elder care, for people who have trouble with a remote control or even dialing the phone."

Clap on.

## GPS DOG FINDERS

Not just one, but two products for finding a wandering Fido were on display at "Digital Experience." Both featured small transmitters the size of a bar of hotel soap that fit on dog collars. They send signals to automated services that notify owners if a pooch goes outside a yard.

Zoombak is priced at $199, plus $14.99 for the monthly monitoring service. PocketFinder costs $129.95, plus a monthly $12.95.

Isn't that a bit steep, especially considering that the monitoring service is all electronic? John Cullen of Zoombak had a ready answer.

"What would you pay to get your dog back?" he asked.

Now, there's an old-fashioned salesman for a digital age.

# Gourd lamps, from low-price to luxe

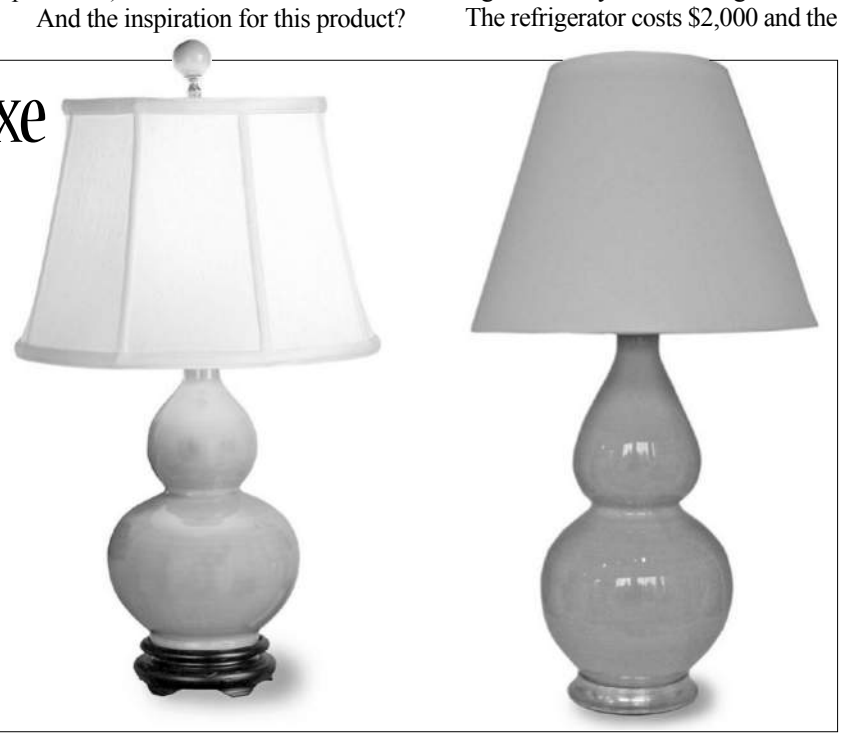
By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Gourd lamps have clear appeal: The shapely silhouette blends with different styles of decor, from modern to traditional and everything in between.

Ceramist Christopher Spitzmiller's luxurious gourd lamps set the standard. They are all over the pages of shelter magazines and are a favorite among designers. But Spitzmiller's handmade lamps are as dramatic in price as they are in style. With their gilded bases and 42 available glazes, they can run from $845 to $3,080 each at www.christopherspitzmiller.com.

Some of the best knockoffs we've seen are the bulb and gourd vase lamps from Tonic Home (www.tonichome.com, $350 each). The colors aren't as varied as Spitzmiller's (there are only five), nor are the shapes and shades as graceful, but they're great lamps at a reasonable price. And Tonic offers free shipping on all orders over $200.

For an even less expensive option, Shades of Light (www.shadesoflight.com ) has a Twin Serenity table lamp in six colors for only $169 each.


Gourd lamps come in different price points, from Shades of Light's modest version, $169, left, to Christopher Spitzmiller's pricey paragon, $1,690.
THE WASHINGTON POST

# With antiques, careful choices add fitting character

By ADRIAN HIGGINS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—By their age and rarity, garden antiques add a unique character—an aura, really—to the spaces they define. Finding them is fraught with problems, however, and placing them can be just as tricky. But the quest can be a lot of fun and the payoff priceless.

"Anyone can have a boxwood parterre," said William Morrow, a landscape designer based here, "but a boxwood parterre with a faux bois planter in the center of it is one of a kind."

The comment rekindled long-dormant memories of visits to the boxwood parterre garden of the late Georgetown doyenne Polly Fritchey. Like its owner, the garden was genteel and welcoming, and the spaces were subdivided into areas of paving and formal shrubbery, most of it choice and slow-growing varieties of boxwood. What set the garden apart, however, was the placement of a series of choice lead urns and lanterns.

Two, in the form of floral baskets, sat on the entrance gateposts. Inside the garden, two Venetian lanterns provided focal points both day and night. On a small, curving patio of herringbone pattern brick, cradled by old boxwood, sat an ornate rococo urn, large enough for a cherub to sit on each side. In height, scale and sheer sculptural beauty, it transformed what was a tranquil space in the city into a magical one.

Classically inspired ornament has its own pitfalls in the New World. A knockoff of Venus de Milo surrounded by stockade fencing and double-shredded hardwood mulch is a risky proposition. Any piece must take its cue from the architecture of the house, said Morrow, which explains why the leadwork in the Georgetown garden worked so well, set as it was against an imposing Victorian abode.

"These types of ornate garden ornaments have to be used very carefully," he said, breaking into a laugh and thinking of instances in which they were not.

THE WASHINGTON POST.

Late 19th-century French cast-iron urns. A vital consideration when buying objects for the outdoors is scale.

THE WASHINGTON POST.

French cast-stone fountain. "Ornate garden ornaments have to be used very carefully," said William Morrow, a landscape designer.

Another danger is in displaying more decorative pieces or furniture than a garden room can sustain. Once you get the collecting bug, "there's a major danger of cluttering," said Maggie Judycki, owner of GreenThemes landscape design company in Annandale, Va.

Another vital consideration for the outdoors is scale. A few years ago, I was in Notting Hill, that trendy antiques precinct of London, and saw a teak Arts and Crafts garden table and chair set by noted designer Ambrose Heal. I sprung for it, half on impulse but half on believing that its smallness would be an asset in my petite patio. It must have shrunk on the voyage to Alexandria, Va. It was so undersized (and uncomfortable) that even the cat rejected it. Mr. Heal had a strange notion of human scale, even in the 1920s.

Moral: Don't buy anything (or much) on impulse. What I should have done was get the dimensions, make a mock-up and see whether it would work. But I was in London, and someone else was keen to get it. Or so the sellers said.

The other problem with impulse buying is that you must then try to fashion a context for the piece. It is far better to have a rational garden space and then find a sculpture or bench that will create a focal point than to try designing a landscape around that three-tiered iron fountain you just had to have. This is easier said than done, I should say, because finding the right piece is getting more difficult, and expensive. While garden antiques once were sleepers compared with interior pieces, bargains and steals are rare birds these days.

"They're becoming harder to find, the prices are skyrocketing, some of the stores that used to specialize in antiques are now doing reproductions," said Judycki, who has a sideline in authentic garden antiques, generally considered as dating before World War II.

Barbara Tapp, editor in chief of Art & Antiques magazine, said that fine statuary in marble, bronze, stone and lead fetch high prices today and that 18th-century English lead sculptures have quadrupled in price in the past five years.

The Internet, of course, is a major reason that garden antique bargains are scarce these days: Anyone with a computer can see what a piece might be worth on the international market. "No one is giving away anything anymore," said Sotheby's Elaine Whitmire.

But acquiring antiques on the Internet is full of risks. Art & Antiques correspondent Bobbie Leigh wrote recently that the market is awash in fakes from China and Eastern Europe. Go through an expert if you want to find pieces on the Web, she counsels.

It is useful to know that a lot of stone pieces are not carved but cast from a reconstituted mix of concrete and aggregate. This is not necessarily bad, but the age and quality of reconstituted stone can run the gamut from cheap, seamed concrete (not antique) from a discount garden center to Coade stone, a kiln-fired clay-based mix used for statuary and building ornament and made in England between 1769 and 1833. It is the most precious and expensive stoneware on the market today, Tapp said.

Coade stone is practically as hard as Mount Rushmore, but it is worth noting that a lot of antiques made for mild European climates don't weather well in an American garden, especially if they are already age-worn. Limestone is attacked by acid rain, and marble can crack from winter freezes. Many terra cotta pieces will soon split in winter in many regions.

This has prompted many people to keep garden antiques as conservatory or sunroom pieces or within the home proper. They can look fabulous indoors.

Whether you are buying a rust-patinated iron gate or a pair of carved French urns, observe the cardinal rule of antiques buying: Get your old man to pay for it. No wait, that's not it. "The first thing," Gregg said, "you have to love the piece."

## KITCHEN MAGIC

### Peanut Chicken

Serve with Sautéed Spinach and Garlic, rice and fresh pineapple. Cook 1 cup of basmati rice as label directs. While it cooks, prepare peanut sauce. As chicken simmers, sautŽ the spinach and cut pineapple into wedges.

**COOK:** 10 minutes
**TOTAL:** 20 minutes
**MAKES:** 4 servings

1 can (14 1/2-ounce) diced tomatoes
1/4 cup (packed) fresh cilanto leaves
1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
2 cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 pound chicken breast tenders
1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1. Drain tomatoes and reserve juice. In blender at high speed or in food processor with knife blade attached, blend tomato juice, cilantro, peanut butter, garlic, salt and crushed red pepper until pureed.

2. In medium bowl, mix cumin and cinnamon; stir in chicken tenders.

3. In nonstick 12-inch skillet, heat vegetable oil over medium-high heat until hot. Add chicken tenders and cook, turning once, until browned, about 5 minutes.

4. Pour peanut-butter mixture and diced tomatoes over chicken; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes to blend flavors.

### Sautéed Spinach and Garlic

In minutes, you'll have a satisfying side dish. To save time, use bags of prewashed baby spinach.

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 clove garlic, crushed with side of chef's knife
2 bunches (12 ounces each) spinach, washed and dried very well, tough stems trimmed
1/4 teaspoon salt

1. In 5-quart saucepot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring, until golden. Add spinach in batches; add salt. Cover and cook, stirring once, just until spinach wilts, about 4 minutes. Discard garlic, if you like. Serves 4.

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## THIS IS A HAMMER

# Easy-lighting pilot lights

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q: I live down south and don't have to use my gas room-heater much. To save money, I turn off the pilot light in the warm months. But it's really difficult to relight the pilot. Any suggestions on making it easier? Should I clean the pilot light components?—Larry T., Tallahassee, Fla.**

**A:** The components that make a pilot light function are efficient and need very little maintenance, but they should be checked before every heating season. Turn off the gas supply to the unit and (after the pilot light has cooled) inspect the jet and thermocouple. To get a closer look you can unscrew the bracket that holds the components in place, being careful not to bend or damage the pilot gas line or the thermocouple line, and disconnect the pilot jet and thermocouple from the lines.

If the pilot jet looks dirty, clean it with a special pilot jet brush, being careful not to scratch the inside of the jet. Don't try to widen the jet's opening, either. A badly corroded pilot jet should be replaced.

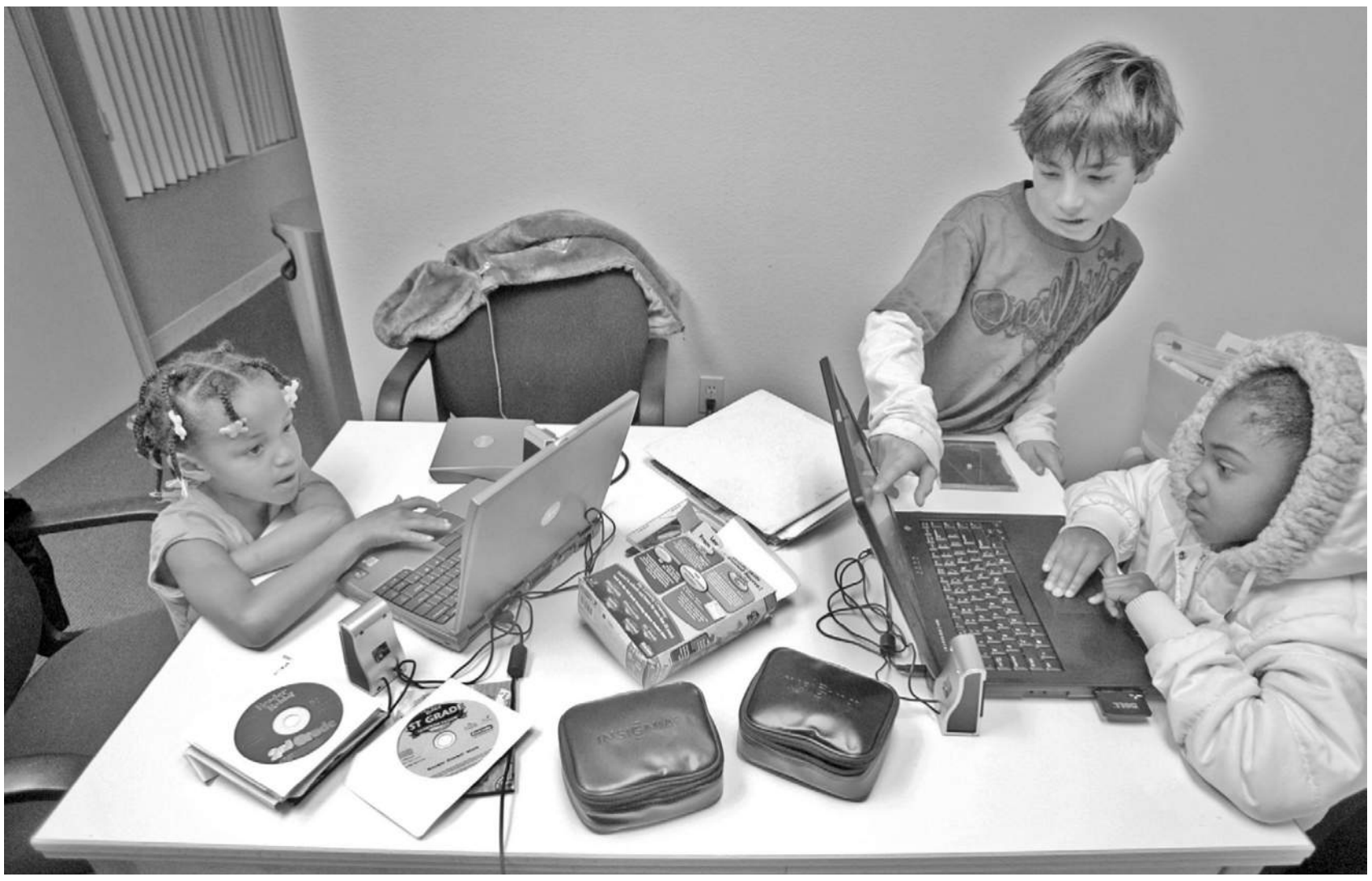
Reattach the components to the supply line and bracket, and then reattach the bracket to the furnace.

Now, you say the pilot is difficult to light. More recent pilots can be lighted with the push of a button, but much older ones still need another flame to light them. I have an area heater dating from the 1950s in one room, and this is how I make it easier to light each winter. I heat up the thermocouple before attempting to light the pilot. Hold a lighted match or long-ended lighter to the thermocouple (the long metal stick next to the pilot jet) for about 20-30 seconds. Then, light the pilot as usual.

**HOME TIP:** A healthy pilot light should have a steady flame with a yellow tip, and should cover the top of the thermocouple next to it.

*Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

# The Good Life



Michael Guggenheim, 12, center, conquered dysgraphia, which impairs writing, by using a computer. He passes his knowledge on to Alicia Lewis, left, and Heaven Sanders.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

# Boy is empowered by his weakness

By FRANCISCO VARA-ORTA

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**LOS ANGELES**—Every Wednesday at the Sydney M. Irmas Transitional Living Center in North Hollywood, Michael Guggenheim teaches a handful of students how to type their names and basic phrases in Microsoft Word and how to work with math, vocabulary and typing programs.

At a recent tutoring session, Michael moved between the laptops used by shelter residents Alicia Lewis and Heaven Sanders, both 7. He coached them for 30 minutes on typing their names, then switched to a half hour of vocabulary and math games.

"Michael, I'm lost," Heaven said, resting her face on her hands.

He quickly went to her computer and punched the "load" button on the keyboard to get the software working.

Another student in distress, another rescue.

But Michael is not just another teacher. He is 12, a sixth-grader at Los Encinos School in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. He can't drive, vote or write much with a pencil, but he started a nonprofit when he was 11 and teaches computer skills to elementary students once a week.

He doesn't regard his dysgraphia, a learning disorder that severely impairs writing, as a disability. Instead, he has turned it into a driving force.

For starters, he was quick to discover that he could use a computer, and now he earns straight A's using a laptop for course work. Later, he started the nonprofit organization that takes laptops and educational software to elementary school children in homeless shelters.

Along the way he discovered his skills at pitching the project that is close to his heart: "Many disadvantaged kids and teenagers don't have the opportunities and access to learning and using computer skills," Michael said. "The tool that changed my life was a laptop, and it's a skill that's necessary to learn to get good grades and a good job so you aren't left behind."

> "Where I think some may see having dysgraphia as a disadvantage, I don't, because my computer skills and teaching these kids is helping me gain even more knowledge. And it exposes me to people I may have never met."

Dysgraphia, a form of dyslexia, makes it difficult to write by hand. The disability is a lifelong condition that has nothing to do with intelligence, according to Los Angeles-based educational psychologist Nita Ferjo, who has treated Michael since he was 6.

Like some people with dysgraphia, Michael experiences pain while trying to write. His written work is illegible after a few sentences, and even tying his shoes can be difficult.

"Michael used to feel very sad in the beginning, after being diagnosed," Ferjo said. "But he's a warrior of sorts, even a bit perfectionistic. He's been driven since I've known him."

Michael has had tutoring and physical therapy for his condition. When he was younger he sometimes dictated homework assignments to his mother. But when he entered third grade, he was allowed to use a laptop computer in the classroom.

"He changed when he got the laptop," Ferjo said. "It empowered him to learn and do more on his own. The fact that he can now help others truly empowers him beyond his dysgraphia."

Michael was inspired to start his nonprofit—which he christened Showing People Learning and Technology, or SPLAT—after participating in school-sponsored volunteer work and observing that some children had little or no access to technology.

After researching nonprofits on the Internet in June, he came up with the name and digitally designed a logo with his father's help. He then asked a family friend who works on copyrighting issues in the entertainment industry to help him trademark the logo.

In July, after using an Internet service to help him prepare the necessary documents, Michael applied for and received nonprofit status from the California secretary of state's office and a federal tax exemption identification number.

In August, he decided to approach L.A. Family Housing, which provides temporary shelter and social services to homeless people, to launch his program. The organization, for which he had done his school-sponsored volunteer work, runs the North Hollywood shelter.

Cecilia Ribakoff, L.A. Family Housing's volunteer coordinator, said Michael "blew her away" when he interviewed for a volunteer position, giving her a written proposal and pitching his nonprofit for the organization's North Hollywood shelter.

"At first I thought he was too good to be true, but he's completely dedicated to his mission," Ribakoff said. "I just have found Michael to be a blessing for me and the organization. He pays attention to our younger kids that sometimes get overlooked."

Stephanie Klasky-Gamer, L.A. Family Housing president, said Michael's fledgling program helps fulfill a dream of bridging the digital divide that separates children like Michael from the homeless children he helps.

"It's very important that kids understand how other people and kids their age live, especially if you have a comfortable lifestyle," said Lori Guggenheim, Michael's mother. "The kids here are just as smart and capable as the ones back at Michael's school. It's just a matter of resources and a support system."

Michael lives in Beverly Hills with his parents and his 8-year-old brother, Ryan. His mother, a former lawyer for Universal Studios, is now a stay-at-home mom; his father, Paul, is a regional manager for a dental supplies company. Mother and son travel 45 to 90 minutes to get to the shelter from home.

Before moving to the shelter among 64 other families, Heaven Sanders called South Los Angeles home, along with her single mother and five brothers and sisters, ages 2 to 16. Heaven's mother, Taneshia Burson, 32, said they became homeless after her roommate moved out and she couldn't make rent payments. Now she is back on her feet and has found an apartment south of downtown. Michael is trying to get a donated laptop for Heaven so she can continue to hone her typing skills.

And he wants to expand SPLAT to other shelters in the city. So far, he's been able to acquire four laptops and about 20 CDs of donated software by writing to manufacturers and businesses, painstakingly signing each letter.

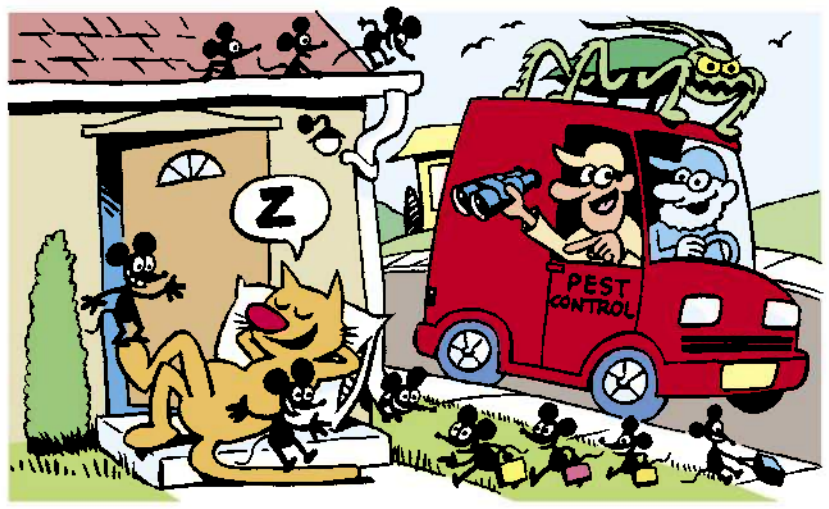
"Where I think some may see having dysgraphia as a disadvantage, I don't, because my computer skills and teaching these kids is helping me gain even more knowledge," Michael said. "And it exposes me to people I may have never met."

# Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

The scrambled words are things found in this scene. How many can you unscramble?

1) KTCUR
2) EMUSO
3) LPOLIW
4) USOEH
5) GLTIH
6) SUBH

Answer -- 1) Truck 2) Mouse 3) Pillow 4) House 5) Light 6) Bush



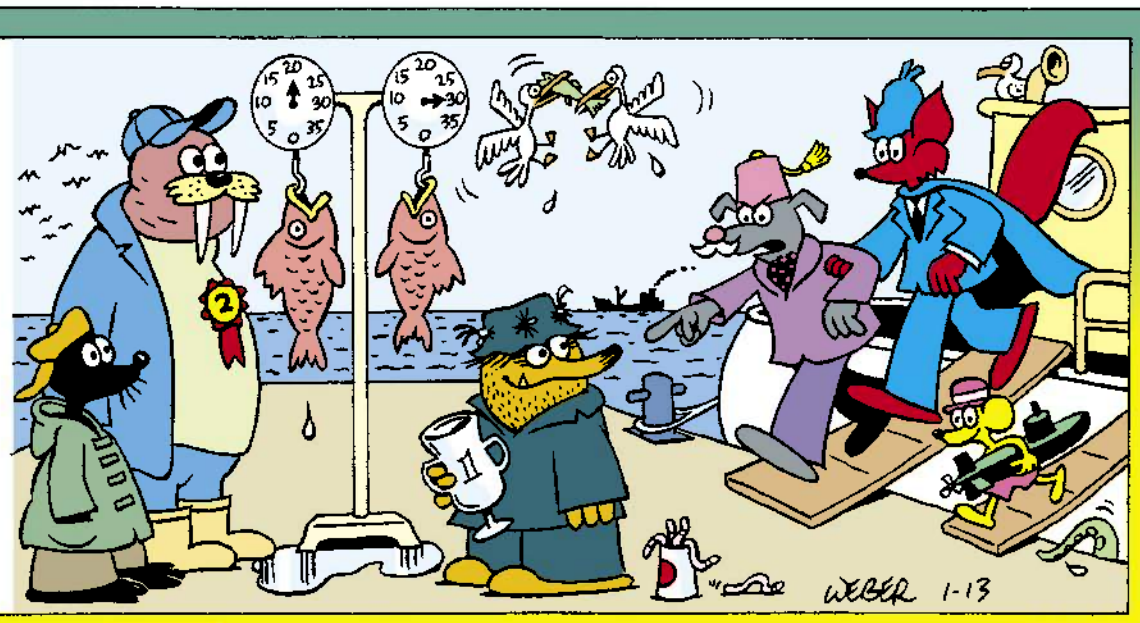

**True or False**

1) A baby mouse is called a cub.
2) Mice will nurse babies that are not their own.
3) Mice can jump straight up 12 inches.
4) A female mouse is called a doe.
5) White mice were first bred by the Chinese thousands of years ago.

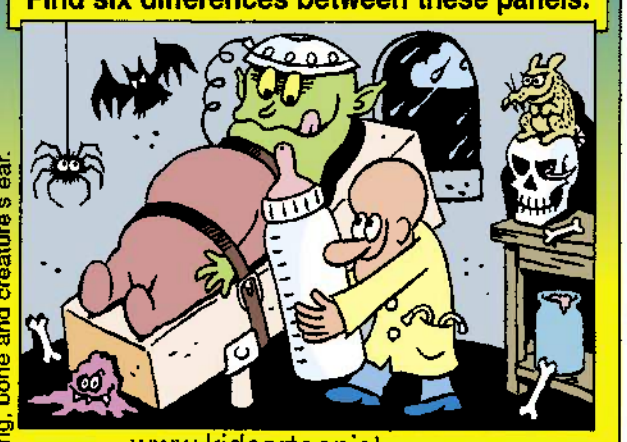
Answer -- 1) False. A baby mouse is called a kitten. 2) True. 3) True. 4) True. 5) True.

Sir Hound says Shady Shrew stole gold coins from his mansion late last night. Shady insists he is innocent and claims he went to bed early so he would be well rested for today's fishing tournament. What evidence did Slylock Fox observe that suggests Shady shrew is lying?

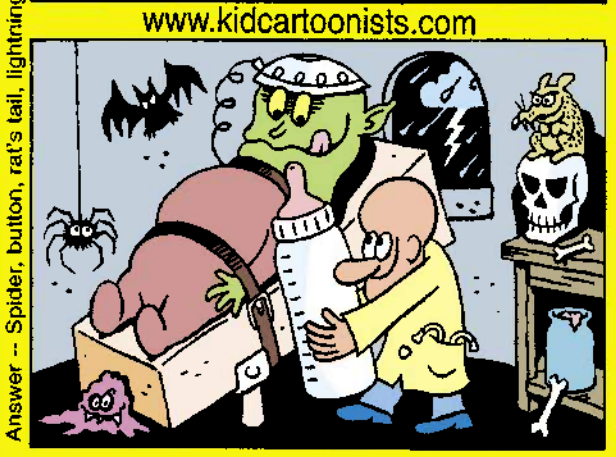
Solution -- Shady's fish is slightly smaller than the other fish but weighs ten pounds more. Slylock suspects Shady stole the gold coins and hid them in the fish.




**Find six differences between these panels.**



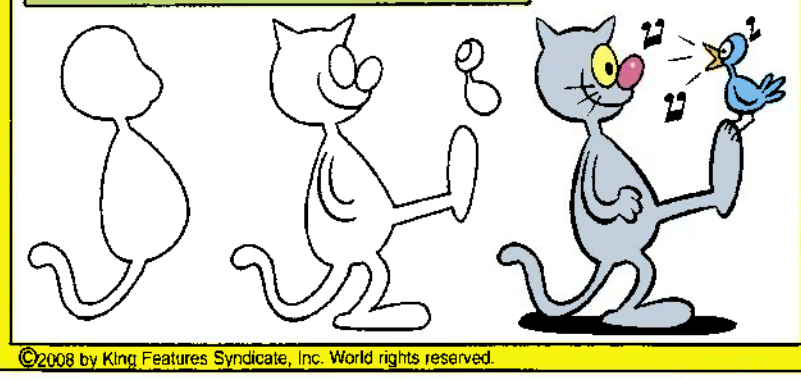
www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Spider, button, rat's tail, lightning, bone and creature's ear.

**New!** The fourth ***Find the six differences*** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

## *HOW TO DRAW* a cat and songbird



## *YOUR DRAWING*

Our featured artist is Kate Freeman, age 11, of Canton, GA

You can submit your art online at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

Which of these animals can go without water longer than a camel?

**a)** Cow
**b)** Rat
**c)** Lion
**d)** Giraffe

Answer -- b) and d)

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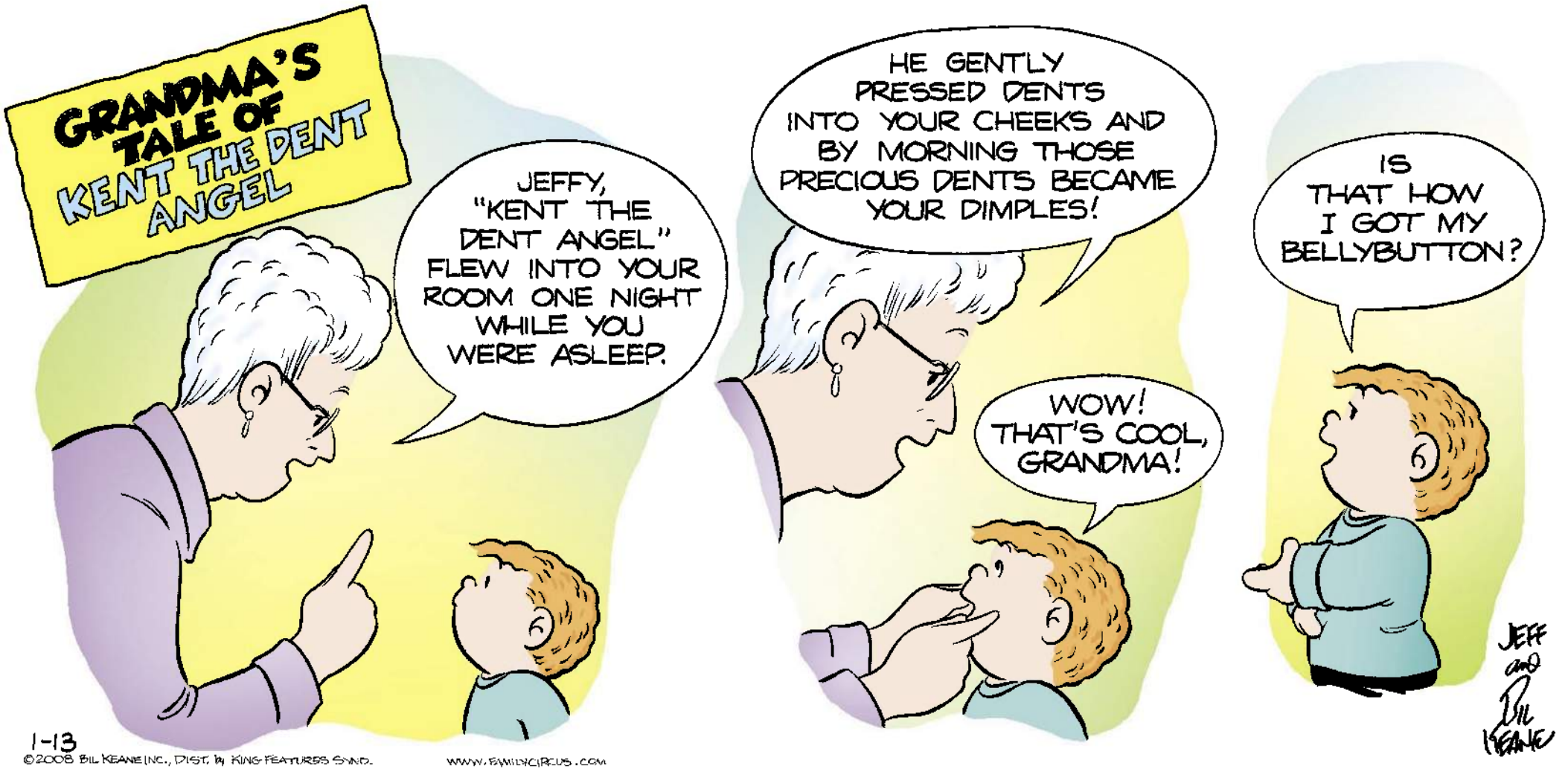
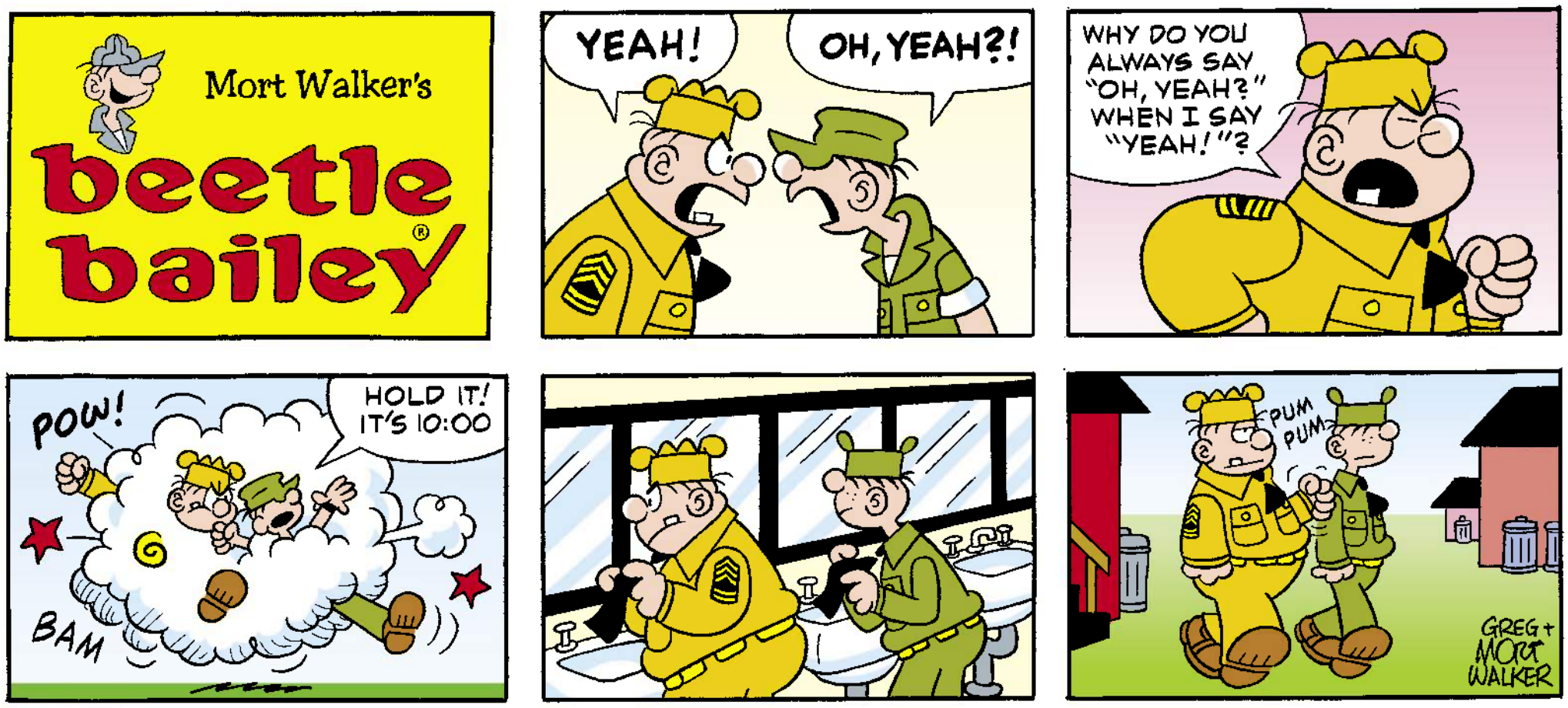
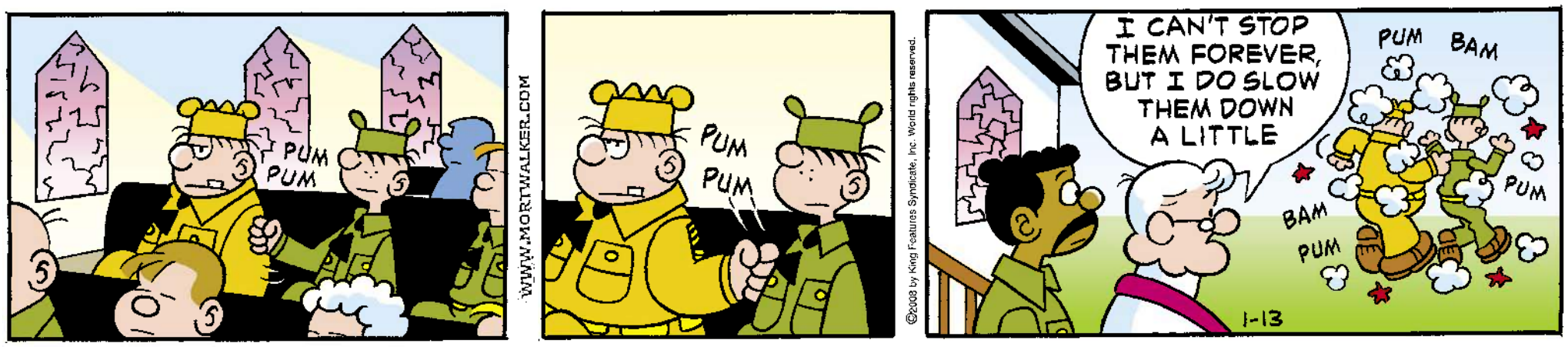
# THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


GRANDMA'S TALE OF KENT THE DENT ANGEL
JEFFY, "KENT THE DENT ANGEL" FLEW INTO YOUR ROOM ONE NIGHT WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP.
HE GENTLY PRESSED DENTS INTO YOUR CHEEKS AND BY MORNING THOSE PRECIOUS DENTS BECAME YOUR DIMPLES!
WOW! THAT'S COOL, GRANDMA!
IS THAT HOW I GOT MY BELLYBUTTON?
1-13
©2008 BIL KEANE INC., DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYND.
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM
JEFF and BIL KEANE

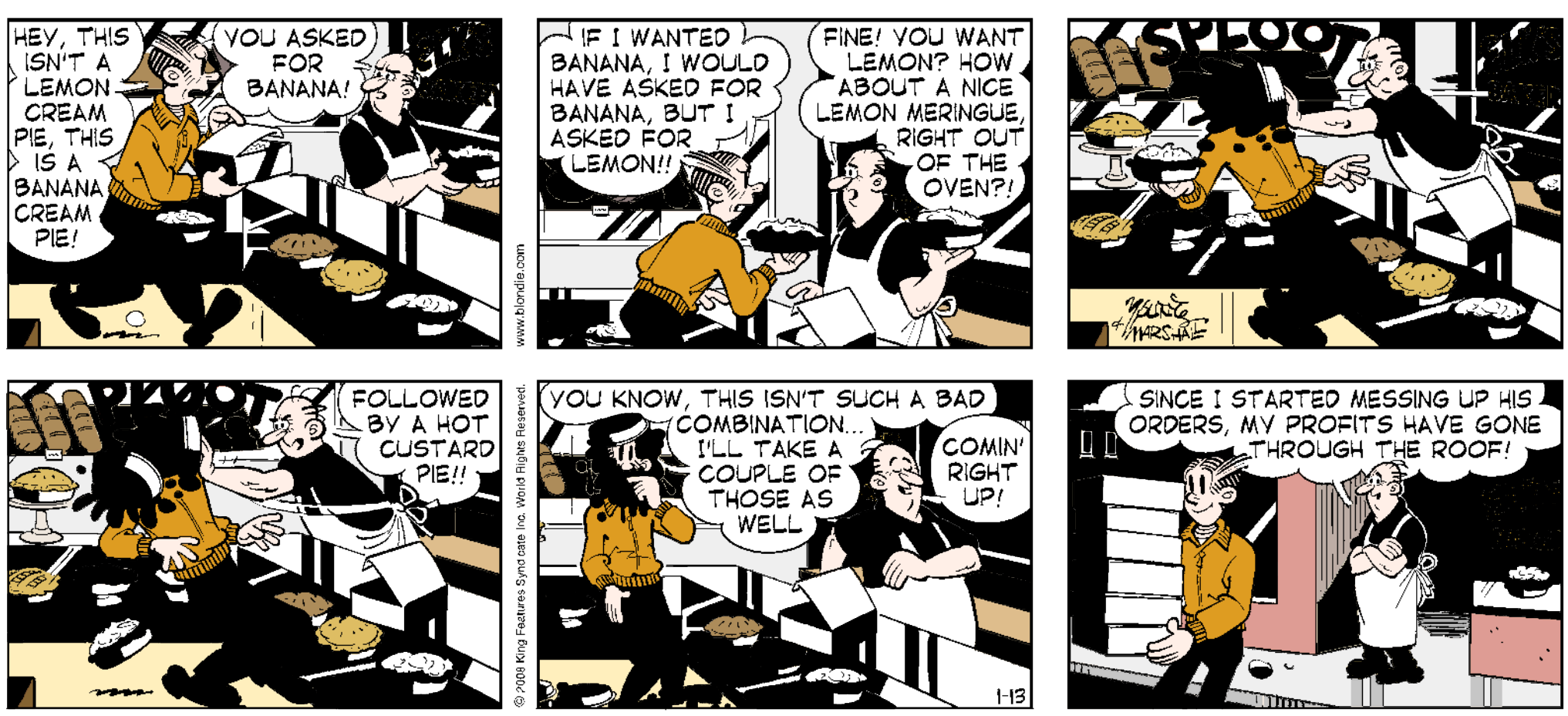
## Mort Walker's beetle bailey®




## BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL


HEY, THIS ISN'T A LEMON CREAM PIE, THIS IS A BANANA CREAM PIE!
YOU ASKED FOR BANANA!
IF I WANTED BANANA, I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR BANANA, BUT I ASKED FOR LEMON!!
FINE! YOU WANT LEMON? HOW ABOUT A NICE LEMON MERINGUE, RIGHT OUT OF THE OVEN?!
SPLOOT
FOLLOWED BY A HOT CUSTARD PIE!!
YOU KNOW, THIS ISN'T SUCH A BAD COMBINATION... I'LL TAKE A COUPLE OF THOSE AS WELL
COMIN' RIGHT UP!
1-13
SINCE I STARTED MESSING UP HIS ORDERS, MY PROFITS HAVE GONE THROUGH THE ROOF!
www.blondie.com
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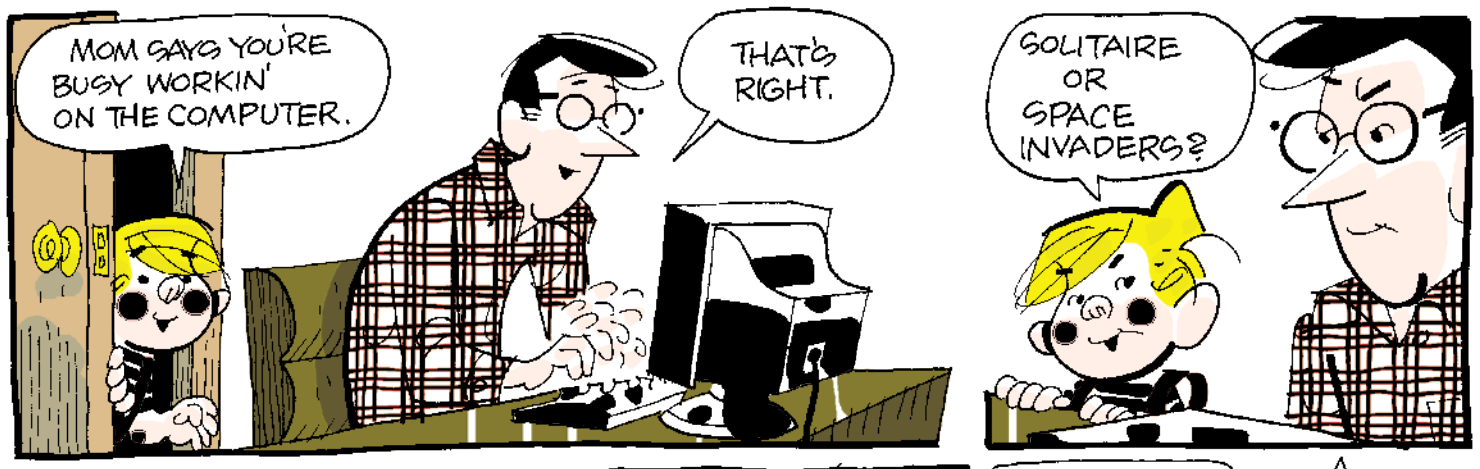
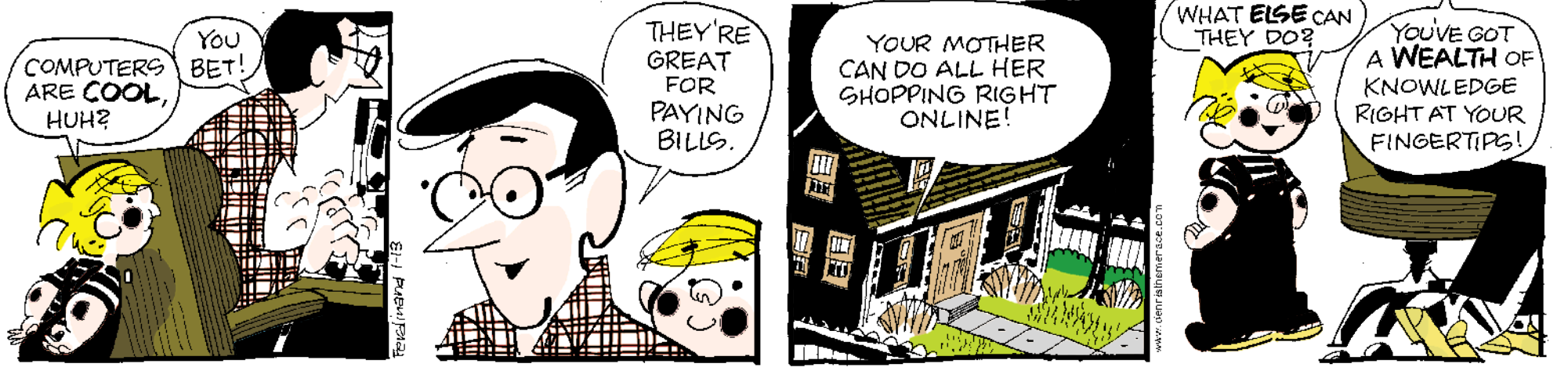
PLASTIC DOESN'T RIP
OK
CHANCE BROWNE
WHY DOES THE GROCERY STORE USE SO MANY BAGS?
TO FOOL YOU INTO THINKING YOU GOT YOUR $237.46 WORTH!

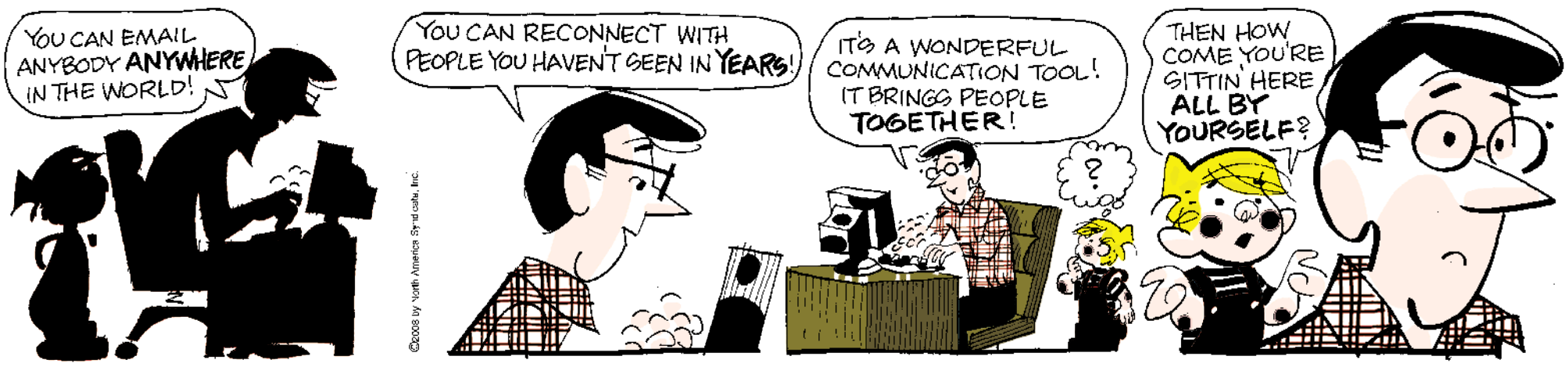
Hank Ketcham's

# Dennis the Menace

Computer Glitch





COMPUTERS ARE COOL, HUH?
YOU BET!
THEY'RE GREAT FOR PAYING BILLS.
YOUR MOTHER CAN DO ALL HER SHOPPING RIGHT ONLINE!
WHAT ELSE CAN THEY DO?
YOU'VE GOT A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!
www.dennisthemenace.com


YOU CAN EMAIL ANYBODY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!
YOU CAN RECONNECT WITH PEOPLE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS!
IT'S A WONDERFUL COMMUNICATION TOOL! IT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER!
THEN HOW COME YOU'RE SITTIN' HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
©2008 by North America Syndicate, Inc.

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
ARE YOU GUYS READY?
JUST ABOUT!
B-HAHA HAHAHA!
WHAT?
ZOE, COME AND SEE THIS!
IT'S THE OUTFIT, ISN'T IT?
HAHAHA! HAHAHA!
YOU KNOW, YOU GUYS ALWAYS CRITICIZE THE WAY I DRESS WREN. JUST TELL ME WHAT I'M DOING WRONG. BE SPECIFIC!
THAT OUTFIT IS UGLY ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL.
OKAY, MAYBE NOT THAT SPECIFIC...
www.babyblues.com
1-13 KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## Salome's Stars

**ARIES** *(March 21 to April 19)* Shutting people out to avoid distractions, even under a deadline, can cause hurt feelings. Instead, return calls and e-mails and explain why you need a zone of privacy for now.

**TAURUS** *(April 20 to May 20)* Although your keen Bull's eyes can usually discern what's fact from what's faux, that upcoming decision will need really solid data before you can risk a commitment.

**GEMINI** *(May 21 to June 20)* As your confidence grows, you should be able to work toward your goals with more enthusiasm. Open your mind to suggestions. Some of them might even work for you.

**CANCER** *(June 21 to July 22)* Reconnecting with someone from your past stirs up that old sense of adventure. But before you do anything else, be sure to get answers to those still-lingering questions.

**LEO** *(July 23 to August 22)* Some people might resent the way you plan to resolve a difficult situation. But your commitment to making tough but fair decisions soon wins you their respect and support.

**VIRGO** *(August 23 to September 22)* Mixed signals could be causing that vexing workplace problem. Before you choose to leave the project, ask for a meeting where you can get things out in the open.

**LIBRA** *(September 23 to October 22)* Your good intentions could backfire if you're not careful with other people's feelings. Try using persuasion, not pressure, to get others to see your side of the situation.

**SCORPIO** *(October 23 to November 21)* Your dedication to finishing the task at hand is laudable. But be careful not to overdo the midnight oil bit. Take time for relaxation with someone very special.

**SAGITTARIUS** *(November 22 to December 21)* Although your intuition will help you make some tough choices in the first half of the month, you'll need more facts to back up your actions later on.

**CAPRICORN** *(December 22 to January 19)* All that hard work and research in the workplace finally pays off as you hoped it would. Ignore comments from jealous types who are out to get the Goat riled up.

**AQUARIUS** *(January 20 to February 18)* An unfair decision creates unnecessary problems. But avoid anger and move carefully as you work this out. Expect to get support from an unlikely source.

**PISCES** *(February 19 to March 20)* A fuzzy financial vista persists until midmonth, when things begin to clear up. You'll also gain a better perspective on how to handle those pesky personal problems.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a wonderful way of being there for those who need your help in difficult times.

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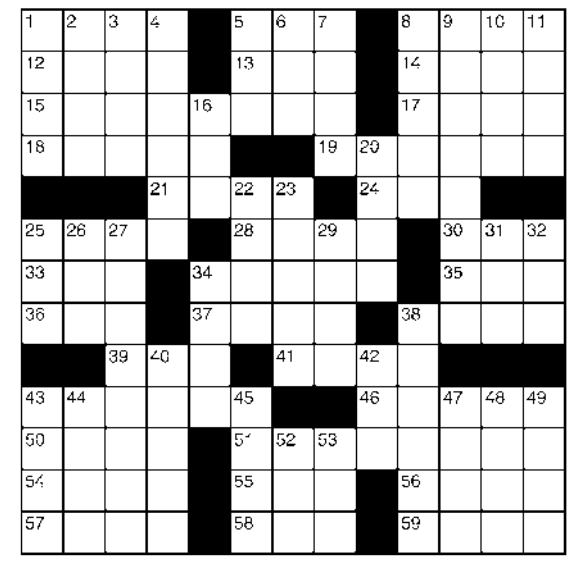
## King Crossword



**ACROSS**
1 Revue segments
5 Navigation aid
8 Milky stone
12 Lummox
13 Lummox
14 Heap
15 Captain Corcoran's ship
17 Sufficient, old-style
18 Traffic problem
19 Analyzed the grammar
21 Point
24 Fond du —, Wis.
25 Former frosh
28 Smooch
30 Scenery chewer
33 Blackbird
34 Pony or bean
35 Tokyo's old name ...
36 ... and its money
37 Black
38 Walked hard (on)
39 Conk out
41 Bigfoot's cousin
43 Bleachers
46 The end
50 Ringlet
51 Seal or walrus
54 Theater trophy
55 Wall climber
56 Dweeb
57 Diplomacy
58 Ball-bearing item?
59 Zales merchandise

**DOWN**
1 Much of Austria
2 Neologize
3 Albacore, e.g.
4 Excessive formality
5 Long March leader
6 Springtime abbr.
7 Incubator noise
8 Phantom's hangout
9 Midsized working dog
10 Burn soother
11 Lascivious
16 Winter ailment
20 As well
22 Epidermis
23 Ring site, sometimes
25 "For instance, ..."
26 Inseparable
27 Like some odes
29 Eye woe
31 Big fuss
32 Chic, to Austin Powers
34 "The — Piper"
38 Ability to choose the perfect moment
40 Bay
42 Heavy weight
43 Highlander
44 Marching band member
45 Expectorate
47 Duel tool
48 Bacterium
49 Finds the total
52 "— Got a Secret"
53 Comedian Louis

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## top ten

### Movies of 2007*

1. *Spider-Man 3*
2. *Shrek the Third*
3. *Transformers*
4. *Pirates: At World's End*
5. *Harry Potter/Order of the Phoenix*
6. *Night at the Museum*
7. *The Bourne Ultimatum*
8. *300*
9. *Ratatouille*
10. *Happy Feet*

* highest grossing

Source: *The Hollywood Reporter*

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**KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | G | | P | A | I | N | S | | S | K | I |
| U | S | E | | U | N | D | U | E | | M | I | D |
| S | H | E | L | L | G | A | M | E | | E | L | L |
| | | | A | L | E | | B | R | O | L | L | Y |
| A | N | S | W | E | R | | S | C | L | L | | |
| R | O | W | | Y | E | N | | D | E | A | L | S |
| I | D | E | A | | D | O | T | | G | R | I | P |
| D | E | L | L | S | | M | U | M | | A | L | A |
| | | L | E | A | R | | M | A | R | T | Y | R |
| S | C | H | E | M | E | | U | R | I | | | |
| F | R | F | | S | P | F | L | I | R | I | N | D |
| I | F | A | | O | R | A | T | F | | N | F | O |
| F | F | D | | N | O | R | S | F | | N | B | C |

# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### OJ returned to jail on bail violation

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—O.J. Simpson returned to jail on Friday, where he will spend several days before a judge hears allegations that he violated terms of his bail in an armed robbery case here, officials said. Clark County District Attorney David Roger alleges that in a November voice message, Simpson told his bail bondsman to contact co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart and express frustration about testimony given at the hearing where Simpson, Stewart and a third man were ordered to stand trial. Simpson had been instructed by Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure in September not to have any contact with anyone involved in the case - not even by "carrier pigeon."

### Prep school president commits suicide

**ATLANTA** (AP)—The popular president of one of Atlanta's most prestigious prep schools gave a rousing talk to the faculty about the new year. Hours later, he apparently jumped to his death from the eighth floor of a hotel. Harry C. Payne, 60, left behind short letters to his family and the board chairman of the Woodward Academy. But friends and colleagues were still baffled by the suicide of the highly accomplished and ordinarily upbeat man. Payne came to Woodward in 2000 after resigning abruptly from elite Williams College in Massachusetts, where at the time he left he was the highest-paid college president in the country, with more than $878,000 in salary and benefits as part of special package related to his departure, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

### Mom confesses she killed autistic child

**PEKIN, Ill.** (AP)—A woman accused of killing her autistic daughter testified Friday that she attempted to suffocate the 3-year-old with a pillow three days before she succeeded with a plastic garbage bag. Karen McCarron said she couldn't go through with it using the pillow. When prosecutor Kevin Johnson asked her how long she held the bag over the toddler's head soon after, she replied about two minutes—until little Katie stopped struggling. In a videotaped confession played in court Thursday, McCarron said she began having thoughts of hurting her daughter a year before the May 2006 slaying. McCarron, 39, has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to murder, obstructing justice and concealment of a homicidal death.

### Drill instructor convicted in abuse case

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—A military jury on Friday convicted a senior drill instructor of dereliction of duty in the abuse of recruits at a Marine Corps training center. However, the jury found Sgt. Robert Hankins not guilty of more serious charges of maltreating recruits, destroying personal property and other offenses. A sentencing hearing was under way at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Hankins faces up to a year's confinement, a reduction in rank and a bad conduct discharge. Hankins is the senior of three drill instructors court-martialed in what prosecutors claim was rampant abuse of recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot between December 2006 and February 2007. During the trial, a former drill instructor, Pvt. Jerrod Glass, testified that Hankins encouraged him to punish recruits for alleged infractions by destroying their hygiene kits.

AP

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff speaks at a news conference on REAL ID at the National Press Club on Friday, Jan. 11, 2008 in Washington.

## New ID rules may complicate air travel

**WASHINGTON** (AP) -- Millions of air travelers may find going through airport security much more complicated this spring, as the Bush administration heads toward a showdown with state governments over post-Sept. 11 rules for new driver's licenses. By May, the dispute could leave millions of people unable to use their licenses to board planes, but privacy advocates called that a hollow threat by federal officials.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, who was unveiling final details of the REAL ID Act's rules on Friday, said that if states want their licenses to remain valid for air travel after May 2008, those states must seek a waiver indicating they want more time to comply with the legislation.

The deadline is an effort to get states to begin phasing in the REAL ID program. Citizens born after Dec. 1, 1964, would have six years to get a new license; older Americans would have until 2017.

Chertoff said that for any state which doesn't seek such a waiver by May, residents of that state will have to use a passport or certain types of federal border-crossing cards if they want to avoid a vigorous secondary screening at airport security.

"The last thing I want to do is punish citizens of a state who would love to have a REAL ID license but can't get one," Chertoff said. "But in the end, the rule is the rule as passed by Congress."

The plan's chief critic, the American Civil Liberties Union, called Chertoff's deadline a bluff - and urged state governments to call him on it.

"Are they really prepared to shut those airports down? Which is what effectively would happen if the residents of those states are going to have to go through secondary scrutiny," said Barry Steinhardt, director of the ACLU's technology and liberty program. "This is a scare tactic."

So far, 17 states have passed legislation or resolutions objecting to the REAL ID Act's provisions, many due to concerns it will cost them too much to comply. The 17, according to the ACLU, are Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington.

Maine officials said Friday they were unsure if their own state law even allows them to ask for a waiver.

"It certainly seems to be an effort by the federal government to create compliance with REAL ID whether states have an interest in doing so or not," said Don Cookson, spokesman for the Maine secretary of state's office.

## Pentagon releases video of naval clash

**WASHINGTON** (AP) -- Recent clashes between Iranian and U.S. Navy forces in the Persian Gulf reflect Iran's shifted military strategy to use its Revolutionary Guard's fast boats more aggressively in the region, the top U.S. military officer said Friday.

In a confrontation Sunday—captured on a 36-minute video the Pentagon made public Friday - military officials said boxes were thrown into the water by the Iranians, triggering concerns about potential mine threats. And in an incident last month, a U.S. ship fired warning shots at a rapidly approaching Iranian boat.

While there are lingering questions about the origin of menacing verbal threats heard during the confrontation Sunday in the Strait of Hormuz, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday that the clash was the most "provocative and dramatic" he has seen.

"The incident ought to remind us all just how real is the threat posed by Iran and just how ready we are to meet that threat if it comes to it," Mullen said.

Iran denied its boats threatened the U.S. vessels and accused Washington of fabricating its video. A five-minute video released by Iran shows a man speaking into a handheld radio, with three U.S. ships floating in the distance. That footage did not show any Iranian boats approaching the U.S. vessels nor any provocation.

Adm. William J. Fallon, the top U.S. military commander in the Mideast, told The Associated Press that Iran runs the risk of triggering an unintended conflict if its boats continue to harass U.S. warships in the strategic waterway.

## Pregnant Marine's grave apparently found

**JACKSONVILLE, N.C.** (AP)—Authorities said Friday they believe they found the shallow grave of a pregnant Marine in the back yard of a comrade she accused of rape, along with evidence inside his home that suggested she had been killed.

Investigators are treating the case as a homicide, said Onslow County Sheriff Ed Brown. But the prime suspect left a note insisting Lance Cpl. Maria Frances Lauterbach had killed herself, Brown said.

After some slight digging in a fire pit discovered in the yard of Marine Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean, detectives found what "appeared to be burnt human remains," Onslow County District Attorney Dewey Hudson said Friday night.

"We think we have found what will (contain) the skeletal remains of Maria Lauterbach," Hudson said. Authorities placed a tarp and two white tents over the area and planned to begin slowly scraping the earth with garden tools Saturday morning.

AP

This undated photo provided by the Onslow, N.C., County Sheriff's Department shows Maria Frances Lauterbach, a pregnant Marine based at Camp Lejeune who has been missing since before Christmas.

Lauterbach, 20, vanished three weeks ago, days after she talked to military prosecutors about a rape case against Laurean, who remains at large. Authorities said Friday that information from another woman, a former Marine, left them certain that she is dead.

Before fleeing Jacksonville on Friday, Laurean left a note that said Lauterbach had "come to his residence and cut her (own) throat," Brown said.

But crime scene investigators found blood stains and obvious signs of that a cleanup had taken place inside the home, Brown said late Friday.

"Evidence now is showing that what he claimed happened didn't happen," Brown said.

Authorities learned about the note from Laurean's wife, a person familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. In the note, the person said, Laurean wrote that he had nothing to do with Lauterbach's suicide, but that he had buried her body.

Laurean's wife Christina is "heartbroken," said her mother, Debbie Sue Shifflet.

"I feel sorry for the other family," Shifflet said. "It's horrible what they're going through. My heart goes out to them."

Authorities on foot and all-terrain vehicles searched Laurean's neighborhood near Camp Lejeune on Friday. Megan Melton, who lives nearby, said dozens of vultures had descended on the area in the past few weeks.

Although the outdoor search was suspended for the night, investigators from the State Bureau of Investigation moved indoors and began a search for blood and other evidence inside his one-story, brown brick ranch home.

# Asia

## Suharto suffers multiple organ failure

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP) —Former Indonesian dictator Suharto showed slight signs of improvement, doctors said Saturday, a day after he suffered organ failure and was placed on a ventilator with dangerous signs of infection in his lungs.

Physicians described his state as "alarming" Friday, and family members and friends rushed to his bedside, some reciting prayers and verses from the Quran as he started to lose consciousness.

Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said that she was pessimistic, telling El-Shinta radio the ventilator was a "last attempt" by doctors to keep him alive. "I don't think it will help," she said.

On Saturday, chief presidential doctor Marjo Subiandono said there were signs of improvement overnight.

Former Indonesian President Suharto accompanied by his daughter Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, top, is wheeled out of a hospital room after undergoing a nuclear imaging procedure called Thalium scan, at Pertamina Hospital in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008. AP

## Musharraf tells US to stay out

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** (AP) —Despite the growing threat from Islamic extremists, President Pervez Musharraf said U.S. troops are not welcome to join the fight against al-Qaida on Pakistani soil.

Musharraf warned in an interview published Friday that Pakistan would resist any unilateral military action by the United States against militants sheltering in its lawless, tribal regions close to the Afghan border.

"I challenge anybody coming into our mountains," he told Singapore's The Straits Times in the interview notable for its unusually strident language. "They would regret that day."

The Pakistan-Afghan border has long been considered a likely hiding place for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and his top deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, as well as a staging ground for Taliban militants planning attacks on coalition forces in Afghanistan.

## Hong Kong-Macau ferries collide in fog

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Two hydrofoils ferrying passengers between the Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macau collided Friday night in heavy fog, seriously injuring 19 people, a Macau government spokesman said.

The poor visibility was also blamed for a number of other maritime accidents in the region. Parts of China's southern coast were enveloped in fog due to a warm, humid maritime air stream.

Thick fog blanketed China's commercial center, Shanghai, where an unlicensed river ferry carrying 22 people capsized Friday, leaving 10 missing, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. The ferry, one of many that operate in the area without proper safety equipment or certification, sank near the city's Wusong pier shortly after the accident, Xinhua said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippines bans poultry from 3 countries

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines has temporarily banned imports of birds, poultry and poultry products from Saudi Arabia, Poland and Benin following outbreaks of bird flu in those countries, the government said Friday. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said he directed quarantine officers and inspectors at major airports and seaports to confiscate shipments of domestic and wild birds and their products, including day-old chicks, eggs and semen, from the three countries. The Philippines' 60 billion peso (US$1.47 billion) poultry industry has not reported any bird flu outbreaks since the H5N1 virus first resurfaced in Asia in 2003, Yap said. A ban on poultry imports from South Korea and Britain remains in effect due to bird flu outbreaks there.

#### US envoy says new Korea talks possible

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Top U.S. nuclear envoy Christopher Hill said Friday that the next round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program could take place this month, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Hill's visit to Russia came amid concern over North Korea's failure to meet a year-end deadline for a full declaration of its nuclear activities. Speaking to reporters after his talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov, Hill emphasized the need for North Korea to quickly produce the declaration. In Beijing on Thursday, Hill said North Korea may be delaying a full accounting for fear of revealing hidden programs that would invite further scrutiny.

#### Nepal to hold election on April 10

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP) —An election to choose an assembly that will rewrite Nepal's constitution and guide its first political steps following the downfall of the monarchy will be held April 10, the government said Friday. The election, whose date was set Friday by Nepal's Cabinet, will be held to elect the Constituent Assembly, Home Minister Krishna Sitaula said. The assembly will rewrite Nepal's constitution and decide on a new political system for the Himalayan nation. The election was first scheduled for June 20 but was postponed because the government failed to enact sufficient election laws.

#### Taiwan votes in legislative elections

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwanese voted Saturday on a new 113-seat Legislature, a contest widely seen as a referendum on President Chen Shui-bian's efforts to carve out a non-Chinese identity for the self-governing island. The election could end years of political deadlock and stabilize the island's rocky relations with neighbor China, which considers Taiwan a part of its territory and has threatened war if Taiwan tries to make its de facto independence formal. Analysts were united in predicting a decisive win for the main opposition Nationalists, who lean toward eventual unification. Even Chen's Democratic Progressive Party has acknowledged its original target of 50 seats seems out of reach.

# World

## Bush: US should have acted on Auschwitz

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—A teary-eyed President Bush stopped in front of an aerial photo of Auschwitz on Friday at Israel's Holocaust memorial and said the U.S. should have sent bombers to prevent the extermination of Jews there.

Yad Vashem's chairman, Avner Shalev, quoted Bush as saying the U.S. should have "bombed it." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Bush referred to the train tracks leading to Auschwitz, not the camp itself, where between 1.1 million and 1.5 million people were killed by Nazi Germany.

The issue of bombing the Nazi death camps or the rail lines leading to them has been debated for years—and the lack of action was interpreted by some as a sign of Allied indifference.

The Allies had detailed reports about Auschwitz toward the end of World War II from escaped prisoners. But they chose not to bomb the camp, the rail lines, or any of the other Nazi death camps, preferring instead to focus all resources on the broader military effort.

Some experts note only late in the war did the United States have the capability to bomb the infamous camp in occupied Poland, and also faced a moral dilemma since such an operation could kill thousands of prisoners. Even Jewish leaders at the time struggled with the issue and many concluded that loss of innocent lives under such circumstances was justifiable.

Bush twice had tears in his eyes during an hour-long tour of the museum, said Shalev, who guided Bush through the exhibits.

Upon viewing an aerial shot of Auschwitz, taken during the war by U.S. forces, he said Bush called the decision not to bomb it "complex." He then called over Rice to discuss President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision, clearly pondering the options before rendering an opinion of his own, Shalev told The Associated Press.

Shalev quoted Bush as asking Rice, "Why didn't Roosevelt bomb it?" He said Rice and Bush discussed the matter further and then the president delivered his verdict.

AP

An Iraqi man and his child enjoy light snow fall in eastern Baghdad, Iraq on Friday, Jan. 11, 2008.

## Snowy day in the sands of Baghdad

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—The flakes melted quickly. But the smiles, wonder and excited story-swapping went on throughout the day: It snowed in Baghdad.

The morning flurry Friday was the first in memory in the heart of the Iraqi capital. Perhaps more significant, however, was the rare ripple of delight through a city snarled by army checkpoints, divided by concrete walls and ravaged by sectarian killings.

"For the first time in my life I saw a snow-rain like this falling in Baghdad," said Mohammed Abdul-Hussein, a 63-year-old retiree from the New Baghdad area.

"When I was young, I heard from my father that such rain had fallen in the early '40s on the outskirts of northern Baghdad," Abdul-Hussein said, referring to snow as a type of rain. "But snow falling in Baghdad in such a magnificent scene was beyond my imagination."

After weathering nearly five years of war, Baghdad residents thought they'd pretty much seen it all. But as muezzins were calling the faithful to prayer, the people here awoke to something certifiably new.

Snow is common in the mountainous Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, but residents of the capital and surrounding areas could remember just hail. And that, only very occasionally.

## Chavez irks Colombia by defending rebels

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP) —President Hugo Chavez, emboldened by his success in a hostage release, took the side of leftist rebels in neighboring Colombia's decades-old civil conflict Friday, calling the guerrillas "true armies" who shouldn't be categorized as terrorists.

Colombia's U.S.-allied government, which has made eradicating the rebels a top priority, reacted with outrage. Interior Minister Carlos Holguin said Colombia "cannot accept a request of this sort."

Chavez's defense of the rebels thrust him deeper than ever into the thicket of Colombia's conflict. He said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and the National Liberation Army "are not terrorists, they are true armies ... They must be recognized."

FARC is the hemisphere's biggest rebel force with 14,000 fighters, mostly peasants it says are fighting for a fairer distribution of wealth. It funds itself mainly by drug trafficking, and the government says it holds some 750 hostages, either for ransom or political leverage.

"They are insurgent forces that have a political project," Chavez said in a marathon speech to lawmakers. "I say it even though someone could be bothered by it."

## Canada set to investigate ex-prime minister

**TORONTO** (AP) -- A formal government inquiry into allegations that former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney received money from an arms dealer while still in office will begin once a parliamentary panel completes its own probe, Canada's leader said Friday.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the announcement two days after receiving a report from David Johnston, a special adviser named to look into a scandal that has further sullied the reputation of an already unpopular conservative Mulroney.

Harper said two months ago that his government would investigate the charges, but said he wanted to wait for Johnston's recommendations on the scope of the inquiry before formally ordering it.

Focus

# A teen's online 'friend' proved false

## Now cyber-vigilantes are avenging her

By TAMARA JONES
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**DARDENNE PRAIRIE, Mo.**—Megan Meier was buried in the polka-dot dress she planned to wear for her 14th birthday. She had handed out the invitations to her party the day she died. Her eighth-grade classmates attended her funeral, instead, heads bowed and hands clasped as her casket was loaded into the hearse.

At the time, Megan's suicide was considered a private tragedy in a quiet suburb near St. Louis. A collective grief seemed to envelop the look-alike houses on Waterford Crystal Drive.

A year passed before the truth began coming out.

In November, the grieving parents told their local newspaper that a 47-year-old neighbor—a family friend—had orchestrated a cruel prank on MySpace.com, driving Megan to hang herself in her bedroom closet. The troubling story was picked up by bloggers, talk radio and others in the indignant chat universe. Tens of thousands joined the debate. Some wanted legislation; others wanted blood.

On message boards, chats and forums, Megan would be mourned, analyzed, romanticized, vilified and endlessly discussed, giving her in death the popularity she never knew in life.

If the Internet had killed Megan Meier, now it would avenge her.

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A family photo of Megan Meier, whose suicide has been the topic of tens of thousands of Internet e-mails, chats, forums and memorials. A 47-year-old neighbor—a family friend—had orchestrated the cruel prank on MySpace.com.

A handsome high school boy was flirting on MySpace.com. Josh Evans told Megan Meier she had pretty eyes, that he thought she was cute. Megan excitedly messaged back.

On the Internet, she could be cool. Thirteen had been miserable, but that fall Megan had fled the jeering hallways of West Middle School, and the outcast misery of a fat girl trying to fit in. Enrolled in a small parish school, she was reinventing herself: She had joined the volleyball team and lost 20 pounds. Her parents were relieved to hear Megan's bubbly laugh again.

But in the course of two hours on a rainy Monday afternoon, Megan suddenly became a target once more, hounded and publicly humiliated by a teenage mob on the Web, set upon in a virtual Lord of the Cyberflies.

Her parents found her body at dinnertime.

When Ron Meier turned on the computer hours after his daughter died, he saw the last message she had received from her MySpace crush:

"This world would be a better place without you."

Weeks after Megan's suicide on Oct. 16, 2006, the Meiers discovered that "Josh" didn't exist. Lori Drew, her 13-year-old daughter and an 18-year-old family friend told investigators that "Josh" had been created to win Megan's trust and find out if she was spreading rumors about the Drew girl, a former classmate and friend. "Megan supposedly had called (her) a lesbian," Tina Meier says.

Authorities urged the neighbors to keep quiet while the FBI investigated. Months passed. A brick was thrown through the Drews' kitchen window; paintballs splattered against their sunroom. While the Drews were shoveling snow one day, Ron Meier had rolled down his truck window. "Who're you gonna kill today?" he shouted.

Ultimately, the U.S. attorney's office decided no charges could be filed against the Drews or the family friend, Ashley Grills, who told the FBI that Lori Drew would sometimes dictate messages for "Josh" to send Megan.

The St. Charles County prosecutor, Jack Banas, agreed, explaining that no statutes against harassment, stalking or child endangerment could be applied here. What happened was despicable, he said, but to be considered criminal the state would have to prove the hoax was intended to frighten or disturb Megan, not merely elicit information. The Los Angeles Times, citing an anonymous source, reported Wednesday that federal prosecutors in California are investigating whether MySpace, which is based in Santa Monica, was defrauded by the perpetrators of the "Josh Evans" hoax.

"If Megan had taken her life with bullets and guns I had in the house, I'd be in jail," says her bitter father. "But they did it with a computer and are walking free."

When Ron and Tina Meier began speaking out for tougher laws against cyber-bullying, the tragedy immediately became a cause celebre. But the sophisticated powers of the information age and the frontier atmosphere of the World Wide Web were about to sideswipe each other again, set in motion this time by a housewife in Richmond, Va.

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Sarah Wells enjoyed the raucous town-hall debates of the blogosphere for a few years already. The 45-year-old blogger was dubious when a link to the newspaper story about Megan popped up on her screen: This was so outrageous, it had to be an urban myth.

It was easy enough to find out for herself.

"I wanted to know who did this," Wells says. She found Megan's obituary online and looked up the Meiers' address. The newspaper story revealing the hoax mentioned that Tina Meier, a Realtor, had sold the unnamed perpetrator a house four doors down just a few years ago. Wells searched tax records online for home purchases during that period. The trail quickly led to Curt and Lori Drew. She then contacted a source she refuses to name, "someone in a position to know," and confirmed Lori Drew's name against a police report.

Wells posted the Drews' names and address on her blog. "I think there are a lot of reasons people would want to know," she explains. "There's the shaming and accountability side of things. And protection of the community: She could be doing this to other kids ..."

Overnight, Wells' blog ricocheted through cyberspace, and by morning, an online lynch mob had formed. Already neighborhood pariahs, the Drews reportedly began getting death threats, harassing calls, and ugly e-mails and letters from the global village.

Cyber-sleuths combed public records online to post photos of Lori and Curt Drew. Satellite images of the house were also posted, along with the Drews' address and phone numbers, and details about where each worked. Boycotts of businesses using Lori Drew's coupon-mailing service were organized and letter-writing campaigns launched to lawmakers, employers and even the chamber of commerce.

What lawmakers couldn't or wouldn't do, virtual vigilantes quickly did. Megan's tormentors were forced into hiding.

Although police reported that Lori Drew initially told them that she had "instigated and monitored" the fake MySpace profile, her lawyer recently changed her story.

"Lori Drew was not aware of any mean, nasty or negative comments made by anyone against Megan until after Megan took her own life," attorney James Briscoe said in a statement. He acknowledged, however, that his client did know about the fake account, and that Megan was being misled by her daughter and Grills. Grills, through an aunt, declined to comment.

"The MySpace account was in place for approximately 29 days. It is undisputed that all messages sent were positive until the last 24 hours," the lawyer's statement said. "The Drew family mourns the death of Megan every day."

The Meiers remain unswayed.

"You can't ask me to have compassion for the people who did this to my daughter," Tina Meier says. "Never, ever ever will I forgive them."

Even as new Web sites popped up to defend Megan, a more startling one materialized last month, it's very name proving just how ugly things had become: Meganhaditcoming.com.

The anonymous blogger claimed to be a former classmate of Megan's. She described Megan in vicious terms as an aggressive, vulgar and unpopular girl who victimized the Drew girl. More than 5,000 comments were posted within three days—many denouncing the blog as "sick" and suggesting it was the work of the Drews. The final entry before the site was dismantled proclaimed, "I am Lori Drew."

The Drews' lawyer denied that the family had anything to do with the site, and the county prosecutor launched an investigation.

Trapped in the Internet's endless hall of mirrors, Lori Drew had become a hoax herself.

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The Meiers and Drews were once friends and the Drews even took Megan on vacation. They were aware she took medication for depression. Megan struggled with attention-deficit disorder and bouts of anxiety as well; she had been in counseling since third grade. Her mother once had to pick her up from school after she intentionally nicked a wrist, but Tina Meier denies that it was a suicide attempt or serious enough to require medical attention.

The Drews' 13-year-old "had a hard time fitting in," recalls neighbor Michele Mulford, whose daughter is the same age. The Drews had a reputation for being pushy parents who often intervened in little girl squabbles.

Apparently worried about her daughter being left on her own to fend off the junior high bul-

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## A TEENS

*From Page 19*

lies, Lori tried to talk the Meiers out of enrolling Megan in private school, insisting "it was a bad idea," Tina recalls.

When "Josh Evans" suddenly appeared on her MySpace page, Megan was thrilled by the attention of the supposed 16-year-old home-schooler who was new to town. Soon she told him she loved him.

Tina was suspicious: Megan had a private account; nobody who didn't already know her name could message her. But Megan brushed aside her mother's questions.

"Josh Evans" was hardly alone—the Internet's unbridled freedom often breeds rampant fakery.

Megan and a friend had created a phony "hot" girl on MySpace the previous year; the Meiers had revoked Megan's computer privileges as a result. She had only recently earned them back, and was allowed to chat only if a parent supervised. The Meiers allowed her to create her MySpace page despite the site's requirement that users be at least 14.

The chatter between Josh and Megan appeared banal, but Tina called local police to see if there was a way to confirm who owned the account. She remembers being told there was nothing to do unless a crime had been committed.

Once, Josh came online when Megan was at school and Tina was reviewing her messages. She recalls identifying herself, suggesting that Megan was too young for him and mentioning her call to police. "He just said OK," Tina remembers. She figured that banning contact altogether would only fuel the fire. At least this way, she and Ron could monitor the chats.

On Sunday night, Oct. 15, Megan was stunned to find a message from Josh, declaring he didn't want to be friends anymore "because I hear you're mean to your friends." Upset, Megan e-mailed Josh to ask why he would say that, but he was signed off.

After school the next day, Megan rushed to check her messages. Heading out the door for an appointment, Tina ordered her to turn off the computer. Ron was napping upstairs.

"I called 15 minutes later to see if she was off, and Megan was crying," Tina remembers. Nasty messages apparently were flying back and forth with Josh. Annoyed, Tina told Megan again to log off. Again Megan ignored her.

Fifteen minutes later, Tina's cellphone rang. Megan, hysterical, begged her to come home: She had to see what was happening online.

When Josh had refused to say who was supposedly telling him Megan was a bad friend, Megan had begun guessing, tossing out names from her old school. Some of those girls, also on MySpace, jumped into the fray. One, who had since moved to Ohio, rallied her new friends to attack Megan, too. Soon "bulletins" were going out, linking friend-list to friend-list, broadcasting over MySpace that Megan Meier was fat, that Megan Meier was a slut, that no one should be friends with Megan Meier.

Tina found her daughter sobbing over the computer and saw that Megan had also sent foulmouthed messages. Tina reprimanded her and shut the computer off. "You're supposed to be on *my* side!" Megan shrieked before storming upstairs. Her father caught her on the landing. *Those kids don't know you,* he tried to soothe.

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Ron Meier sits in the bedroom of his daughter, Megan, who committed suicide just before her 14th birthday after a fictitious online "friend" turned on her. No charges have been filed in the hoax. "If Megan had taken her life with … guns I had in the house, I'd be in jail," says Meier, of Dardenne Prairie, Mo. "But they did it with a computer and are walking free."

Neighbors heard Tina's scream that night over the rain outside.

A crowd gathered at the sound of sirens. The Drews were among those watching as an unconscious Megan was loaded into the ambulance, her heart barely beating. Lori Drew turned to someone and asked what happened.

Another neighbor would later remember a conversation with Drew that night, too. Drew had called and asked to speak to Michele Mulford's daughter as the emergency vehicles screeched up to the Meiers'.

"Just keep your mouth shut," the girl said she was told.

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The next day, while Megan was on life support, Mulford gingerly broached the subject of suicide with her daughter, who had known Megan since kindergarten but didn't really move in the same circles.

Mulford said she didn't know what would have caused Megan to do something like this. Her daughter's reply stunned her:

"Mom, they had a MySpace account and were playing around with Megan. I sent an e-mail to Megan, too."

Mulford furiously called Lori Drew and demanded an explanation: What had she gotten her child involved in?

"She said: 'OK, here's the deal: We created a MySpace account and found a good-looking boy on the Internet and named him Josh Evans and played with Megan,' " Mulford recounts, adding that Drew admitted she had "panicked" and removed the Josh profile the night Megan hanged herself.

Investigators confirmed that the "Josh Evans" account was deleted and that, as the message trail began evaporating, only some of the exchanges with Megan could later be recovered from the Drews' or Meiers' computers.

Mulford learned that the Drews had told her daughter about the prank while carpooling one day, and gave her the password. Believing that the goal was to determine whether Megan bad-mouthed the Drew girl, the Mulford girl sent the message saying Josh had heard Megan treated her friends badly.

Mulford didn't really know the Meiers. The day after Megan's death, she called the middle school's crisis counselor, who urged her to come in. Mulford remembers collapsing on the counselor's floor and crying for two hours while pouring out the story.

While Mulford was agonizing over how to approach the Meiers, the Drews apparently were having no similar qualms.

They sent a huge spray of flowers to the Meiers and attended Megan's funeral. The Drews' daughter's birthday fell just three days after Megan's, and the Drews implored the Meiers to come to the party. "They started to sing 'Happy Birthday' and I left because I couldn't handle it," Ron recalls. Later, the Drews had Megan's younger sister over to bake cookies, and asked to hide their kids' Christmas surprise—a foosball table—in the Meiers' garage.

Mulford finally arranged to meet the Meiers at her own counselor's office. Tears mixed with rage and the Meiers hugged her and thanked her for coming forward. Everyone headed home to Waterford Crystal Drive. "I was maybe five minutes behind them, and as soon as I got on the street, I could see Ron with the foosball table," Mulford remembers. He and Tina were smashing it to bits.

Hearing the commotion, neighbors began to gather and watch.

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"Tina and I drug that foosball table out of the garage and started going at it with an ax and a sledgehammer," Ron recalls. "We loaded it up in my pickup truck and dumped it on the Drews' driveway. It was in about 5,000 pieces. Tina spray-painted 'Merry Christmas' on the cardboard from the box."

When Curt, Lori and their daughter walked up to the Meiers' some 15 minutes later, saying they needed to talk, neighbors had to restrain Ron.

Later that day, sheriff's deputies knocked on the Meiers' door. The Drews had called about their demolished foosball table, one of many complaints they would lodge against the Meiers.

In her first formal complaint, Lori Drew put Megan's suicide into the public record with an explanation that would later outrage Web surfers who discovered it on TheSmokingGun.com. Accounts of the hoax by the Drews and Ashley Grills would later change so often and so drastically that the county prosecutor eventually issued a two-page list of facts and disputed facts, and conceded to reporters that getting the real truth was impossible by now.

But in her initial story barely a month after Megan's death, Drew told sheriff's deputies that the neighborhood had grown hostile because people had "found out her involvement in Megan's suicide," the report says. It also recounts Drew's admission that she "instigated and monitored" the fake MySpace profile, solely to find out what Megan was saying about her daughter.

Drew told deputies she "just needed" to talk to the Meiers to relieve herself of "responsibility" and guilt. She said she and her husband had tried three times already, but the Meiers wanted no contact. She wanted the tension documented, in case anything happened. It did.

Ron Meier was accused of driving his truck across the Drews' lawn and causing $1,000 in turf damage. "I didn't do it," he says. He estimates he has spent $3,000 in legal fees so far.

The only criminal charges filed in the wake of Megan Meier's suicide would be against her own father.

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In cyberspace, a blurry line still flickers between social justice and mob retribution.

Today, the Drews' phones ring unanswered, and video cameras atop their house pan the property for trespassers. Curtains remain drawn, and a weary-looking man who answers the door politely refuses to comment.

Neighbors say they often see strangers drive slowly past the Drews' house and hear shouts in the night: *Murderer! Burn in hell, Lori*!

Drew went into hiding with her daughter. The Drews' advertising business closed; Curt Drew's affiliation with a local realty firm was severed. Their daughter, now 15, has been too shaken to return to school, and Ashley Grills is under psychiatric care after threatening to hurt herself, according to county prosecutor Jack Banas, who decried the "vigilante mentality."

Michele Mulford says she and her daughter both remain in counseling, and that her daughter does not want to publicly discuss what happened. The Meiers say they have forgiven the girl.

The Meiers have since filed for divorce. Ron lives in the house, where two fairy-light angels glow each night from Megan's bedroom window onto Waterford Crystal Drive below.

A hundred or so people gathered for a candlelight vigil one night this winter, across from the Drews' dark house. Megan's family handed out pink polka-dotted fliers that demanded "Justice for Megan Taylor Meier" and vowed to fight to "change the laws—one city, one state, and one country at a time." So far, only local ordinances have been passed, making cyber-bullying a misdemeanor.

Josh Evans exists now only as a closed FBI file. In a MySpace survey, he said he wore size 13 1/2 shoes, didn't smoke or take drugs, liked girls with long brown hair and said weight didn't matter. The final question asked what things in his past he regretted. The answer was typed in capital letters, a shout from a nonexistent boy in a virtual world.

"NONE," he said.

# Life & Style

## ‘Meanest Mom’ sells son’s car, family gets quite a ride

By MONICA HESSE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Yesterday, she was the meanest mom on the planet. Today: the coolest.

Jane Hambleton, 48, gained a worshipful parental following when news of a classified ad she’d placed in the Des Moines Register was picked up by the Associated Press. The text of the ad:

“OLDS 1999 Intrigue. Totally uncool parents who obviously don’t love teenage son, selling his car. Only driven for three weeks before snoopy mom who needs to get a life found booze under front seat. $3,700/offer. Call meanest mom on the planet.”

Sold! Hambleton, a radio DJ in Fort Dodge, Iowa, received some 70 calls from buyers. And other parents. And emergency room workers. And school counselors. And scores of others wanting to congratulate her for being so Dirty Harry awesome.

“I don’t think you can print” what Steven, 19, said to his mom, she told the Register. But then they became instantly famous, and by Thursday morning they were appearing on “Good Morning America,” which got the television booking wars started, as ABC producer Chad Parks recounted it. “Today” wanted them.

The Hambletons were about to book that when folks from “Oprah Winfrey” called, demanding exclusivity, so the family leaned toward that, Mom being a huge Oprah fan. But then Ellen DeGeneres called.

And while Mom likes Oprah, Steven loves Ellen, and Mom was inclined to give this one to her son, considering she had taken away his car and all.

They were going back to Iowa to sort it all out, and were unreachable Thursday.

All of which proved one thing: America needed this. Oh boy, did we need this kind of tough love, the kind that says: “I am not your friend. I am your mother. Eat your peas. Now.”

The kind that says: “I don’t care what the other mothers are doing. I am not buying a pony keg for your party, even if I take away the keys to make sure your friends don’t drive home plastered.”

For the record, Steven, a student at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, told his mother that the alcohol in the car did (ital) not (end ital) belong to him, but to a friend. For the record, Hambleton believed him. Nonetheless, it violated one of the two rules she’d set forth when she bought him the car at Thanksgiving: No Booze, and Keep It Locked.

Steven was originally “very, very unhappy,” the Register reported, but he and Mom seem to have patched things up. It’s amazing what a free trip to New York can do.

As for the car, it was purchased by another couple in Iowa who planned to give it to their 19-year-old son. Hambleton told the Register: “I told the kid when they were leaving, ‘Do not have any booze in that car. And if you do, don’t hide it under the front seat.’”

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jane Hambleton and son Stephen on “Good Morning America,” where she talked about selling his car after finding booze under the front seat. Hambleton went from “meanest mom on the planet” to the coolest when the Associated Press picked up the story and parents and others expressed their admiration.

## Writers won’t picket the Golden Globes

A finished Oscar statuette is photographed in the studio at R.S. Owens & Company in Chicago on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, The two month walkout by members of the Writers Guild of America has disrupted the beginning of the awards show season, forcing the cancellation of the Golden Globes ceremony and possibly jeopardizing the Academy Awards presentation scheduled Feb. 24. Oscar broadcast producer Gil Cates has vowed there will be a televised show, one way or another. AP

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) -- Striking Hollywood writers said Friday they had decided not to picket the Golden Globe Awards because organizers of Sunday’s event changed it from an exclusive NBC broadcast to an event open to all media.

The Writers Guild of America issued a brief statement saying it had given the Hollywood Foreign Press Association its assurance that writers would not protest outside the news conference where winners will be announced.

The association announced the expanded media access earlier in the day, marking a reversal of NBC’s intent to cover the strike-affected event exclusively for television.

“Under the new arrangement, there will be no restrictions placed on media outlets covering the press conference,” the association said in a brief statement.

The announcement came after behind-the-scenes wrangling between the association and NBC over the format of the unusual broadcast.

The event was scaled down from the traditionally glitzy ceremony after actors refused to cross the threatened picket lines of striking Hollywood writers.

NBC initially said the Golden Globes would be an exclusive program for the network, which was treating it as a news event in which no money would change hands between NBC and the press association.

Along with losing out on its reported $5 million to $6 million license for the full-blown ceremony, the association also saw NBC shut out other TV outlets and give NBC Universal’s “Access Hollywood” anchors Nancy O’Dell and Billy Bush starring roles in the announcement.

NBC did not immediately respond to e-mail or phone requests for comment.

By moving the awards announcement to the news division, where workers are not part of the Writers Guild of America dispute, the network also was hoping to keep away guild pickets.

The guild said it did not have immediate comment on the revised announcement plans.

The collapse of the Globes ceremony is an ominous sign for the Academy Awards, which are scheduled to air Feb. 24 on ABC. The writers guild refused to grant waivers for its members to work on the Oscars or the Globes.

## THE WISE GUYS

### On traffic etiquette, mysteries of time

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE AND DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**Dear Wise Guys:**
**The other evening while driving home from work, I was stopped at a light in the right lane behind one car. When the light turned green, about three cars in the left lane went through the intersection while the car in front of me didn’t budge. I flicked my brights, and the driver moved forward. After about 30 feet, he slammed on his brakes, causing me to come about three inches from hitting him while almost getting creamed by a Metro bus behind me. How should I have reacted?— Brian**

**Joe:** I’m the wrong person to ask. When I was in college I was sitting at a red light in Philadelphia, and as soon as the light turned green the guy behind me leaned on the horn. I put my car in reverse and gave his car a solid bump and drove off. Not my proudest moment, but it felt good at the time. I can’t still get arrested for that, can I?

**Dan:** As Joe reminds us, there are jerks out there. Flicking your brights was a courteous reaction to the driver’s inattentiveness, but you should not have reacted to his or her sudden stop. Trying to one-up an idiot motorist only leads to trouble. The only proper retaliation would have been to call in the car’s license plate number to the police after you removed yourself from the situation.

Or you could have made a note of the license number and complained about him or her on PlateWire (www.platewire.com), launched by Vienna, Va., resident Mark Buckman, 33, in May 2006 to provide a forum for venting and social accountability. “There’s been quite a few complaints about people using their vehicle as a weapon,” he says. “It’s an entitlement attitude. What makes them think they’re better than anyone else?” We don’t know, but publicly shaming their plate number might be the first step toward more cordial roadways.

**Joe:** Did Dan just call me a jerk? Hey, pal, I’ll see you outside.

■ ■ ■

**Dear Wise Guys:**
**Why do ads for watches and clocks always show the time as 10:10? I have asked everyone who should know, including people who work in clock stores, but no one can answer. My theory is that it makes the watch dial look like a smiley face. Any guesses?— Jeff**

**Justin:** Sometimes it takes forever to dig up a reliable expert to answer a hard query. Sometimes you are related to them. Monica Fetty, who was once a retail-display designer for Fossil, is also my cousin. “The answer is relatively simple,” Monica says. “If you did a casual survey of all of your friends’ analog watches and set them to 10:10, you would notice it highlights the company logo perfectly.” Then we chatted about our holidays, but that’s not really your business.

## No pressure for AFI Awards winners

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) -- Talk of the writers strike buzzed around a Four Seasons ballroom Friday as George Clooney, Javier Bardem and other stars gathered for a no-pressure awards lunch hosted by the American Film Institute.

The AFI Awards honored 10 films and 10 television programs of 2007, as selected by juries that include critics, academics and others in the industry. There were no winners or losers, and no acceptance speeches - just a lunch of Lake Superior whitefish, truffle herb mashed potatoes and chocolate cake.

The awards are among several traditionally low-key Hollywood gatherings that are getting a bump in attention this year because glitzier events like the Golden Globes have been toned down.

Attire was business casual (though “There Will Be Blood” writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson wore a collarless shirt, scruffy beard and funky red hat), there were only a handful of photographers and the only TV cameras there were shooting for AFI.

Producers, directors and actors from each honored film and show sat at tables together to watch clips and listen to AFI’s “rationale” for each pick. Critic Leonard Maltin read out the reasoning for each movie, and AFI trustee Rich Frank did the honors for TV shows.

“It’s relaxing,” said Hal Holbrook, whose supporting performance in “Into the Wild” has won wide acclaim. “This was nice. You don’t have to sit around waiting for somebody to call your name. That was tough the other night at the Critic’s Choice.”

Tilda Swinton, wearing a loose linen dress, said she was grateful for the no-competition atmosphere.

“This is great. This is the way it should be,” said Swinton, who plays a corporate lawyer in “Michael Clayton.” “Maybe it’ll start a trend.”

The writers’ strike topped AFI’s list of moments of significance from 2007.

“AFI looks forward to the day when a new business model will form, and an artist’s work will rise above the numbers,” said Bob Gazzale, the organization’s president and CEO.

Former Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Frank Pierson said it had been “a very difficult year” and praised the honored films for showing that “the artists and the businessmen have done it again together.”

Clooney, in a sleek black suit, said he hoped to use his connections to bring together “people who know each other” on both sides of the strike.

# Hannah Montana caught using body double

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The body double was only on stage for a few seconds, and the switcheroo was relatively innocuous. But since it involved the "Hannah Montana" show—the sold-out tour for which tickets have been scalped for hundreds of dollars - even the use of a brief stand-in for its star, 15-year-old Miley Cyrus, was enough to cause plenty of buzz when video of the switch was posted on the Internet.

"This tour is such a phenomenon everybody is trying to find some angle to write about it," said Gary Bongiovanni, editor-in-chief of Pollstar, the trade publication that tracks tours. "This tour was the phenomenon of 2007 and it's still going strong in 2008."

A video posted on YouTube shows the 15-year-old entertainer, who stars on the hit Disney TV show "Hannah Montana," onstage as her character, dancing and singing onstage with a group of dancers and the Jonas Brothers, also on the "Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus 'Best of Both Worlds'" tour.

During the song, someone ushers her offstage via a trap door. Immediately, another girl dressed like the character "Hannah" in the same pink trench coat with blonde hair covering her face dances around, runs up stairs on the stage set and then quickly leaves the stage.

While the double is holding a microphone for her less than a minute, the girl motions like she is singing. However, a rep for Miley said the switch was only for costume purposes.

"To help speed the transition from Hannah to Miley, there is a production element during the performance of 'We Got the Party' incorporating a body double for Miley," according to statement from the public relations firm PMK, which represents Miley.

"After Hannah has completed the featured verse on the duet with the Jonas Brothers, a body double appears approximately one to two minutes prior to the end of the song in order to allow Miley to remove the Hannah wig and costume and transform into Miley for her solo set. Other than during this very brief transitional moment in the show, Miley performs live during the entirety of both the Hannah and Miley segments of the concert."

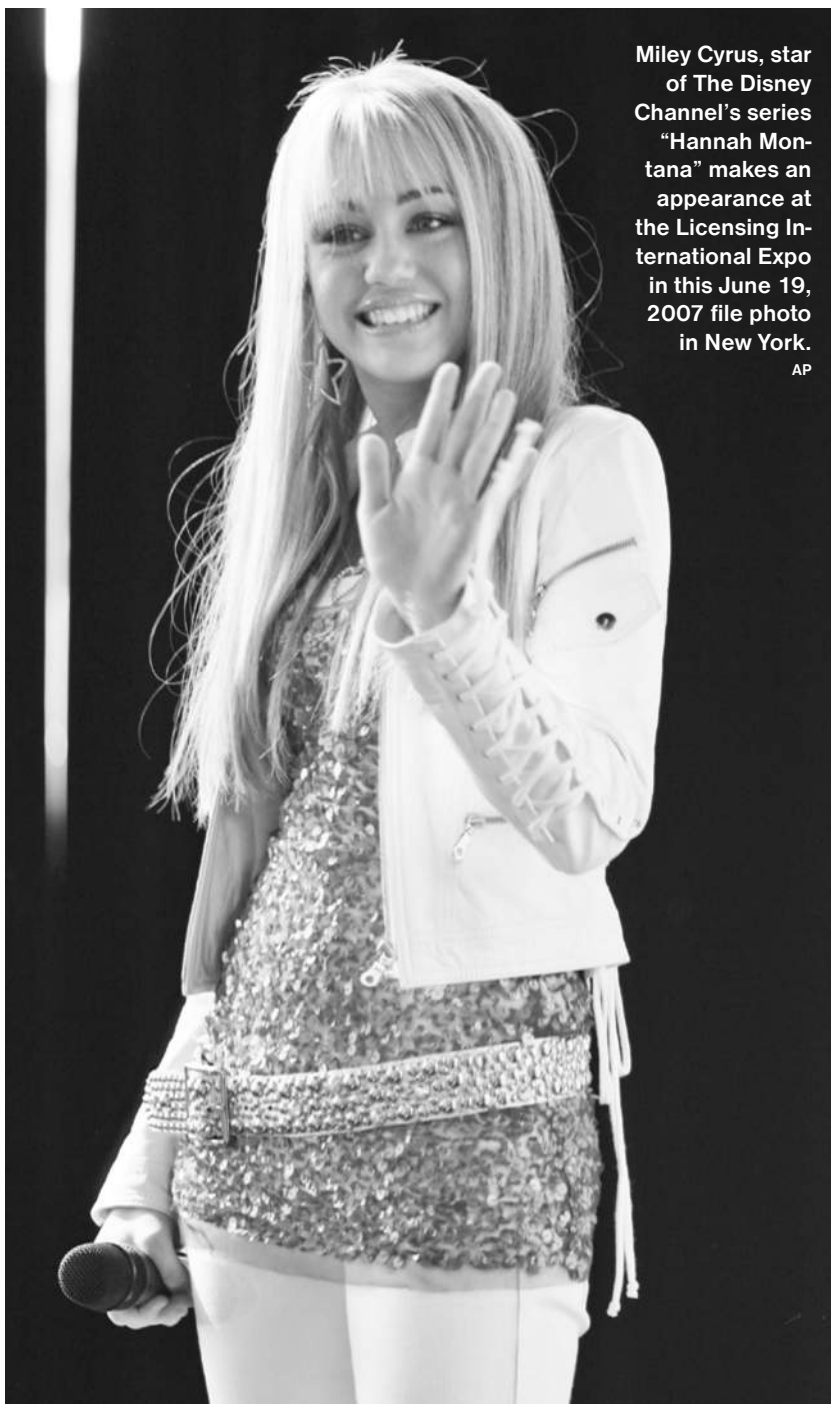
Some fans were supportive, but others decried the body double as fakery. But Bongiovanni, who said the use of body doubles is not uncommon in touring shows, said there was nothing dishonest about it.

"It takes a few moments at least to change costumes, and they are trying to do it to give you the almost 'David Copperfield gee-whiz' effect," he said. "There are absolutely laws of physics that prevent you from doing gee-whiz things without some hocus-pocus."

Miley's "Hannah Montana" tour is one of the nations hottest tours, selling out within minutes when tickets went on sale last fall. While some lucky fans were among them, some were ticket brokers who have resold tickets for hundreds, even thousands of dollars on Web sites.

Some parents were willing to pay up to satisfy their children; others complained about the difficulty of getting tickets. And one parent did the unthinkable, helping her 6-year-old daughter write an essay claiming her father died in Iraq in order to win a contest for concert tickets. The prize was stripped away once the truth was revealed.

Miley has released two albums under the "Hannah Montana" brand, both of which have sold more than two million copies.



Miley Cyrus, star of The Disney Channel's series "Hannah Montana" makes an appearance at the Licensing International Expo in this June 19, 2007 file photo in New York. AP

# Apatow, Cody, Penn among WGA script nods

**NEW YORK** (AP)—While the Writers Guild of America continues its strike, throwing much of awards season into question, it still has some awards of its own to hand out.

Among the WGA nominees for best original screenplay are stripper-turned-scribe Diablo Cody for the teen pregnancy comedy "Juno" and Tony Gilroy, who wrote and directed "Michael Clayton," about a fixer at an upscale New York law firm.

Also nominated for best original screenplay were Judd Apatow for "Knocked Up," another comedy about an unplanned pregnancy; Tamara Jenkins for "The Savages," about adult siblings caring for their ailing father; and Nancy Oliver for "Lars and the Real Girl," in which a loner falls for a life-size doll.

The WGA winners will be announced Feb. 9. The Los Angeles-based West division of said it will not host an awards show until the strike is over. The New York-based East division of the guild said it has not yet decided whether it will have a ceremony.

Many of the year's most acclaimed films were based on books, making the adapted screenplay category especially competitive. The nominees include Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Texas crime novel, "No Country for Old Men," and Paul Thomas Anderson's loose adaptation of Upton Sinclair's novel "Oil!" —which he turned into "There Will Be Blood."

Also nominated for best adapted screenplay were Sean Penn's script for "Into the Wild," based on Jon Krakauer's book, Ronald Harwood's adaptation of Jean-Dominique Bauby's memoir "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," and James Vanderbilt's script for "Zodiac," adapted from Robert Graysmith's book about San Francisco's Zodiac killer.

Nominees for the third and final category, documentary screenplay, were Michael Moore's script for "Sicko," as well as those for "Nanking," "No End in Sight," "Taxi to the Dark Side," "The Rape of Europa" and "The Camden 28."

The guild's strike is causing considerable turmoil this awards season. On Monday, organizers facing the prospect of a Golden Globes ceremony without any celebrities—who said they wouldn't cross picket lines—reduced the event to a news conference.

AP

Director Judd Apatow arrives at the Hollywood Live Magazine's 7th annual Breakthrough of the Year Awards, in this Dec. 9, 2007, file photo in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

# Naomi Campbell meets Argentine president

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** (AP)—Naomi Campbell called on Argentina's first elected female president Friday, and the pair discussed the release of two women held hostage for years by Colombian guerrillas, the state news agency said.

President Cristina Fernandez had forcefully lobbied alongside Venezuela for a hostage release, and dispatched husband and former president Nestor Kirchner on a humanitarian bid to the Colombian jungle.

That mission failed to bring back the two hostages by New Year's Day, but they were liberated Thursday after being held for six years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Campbell recently conducted a celebrity interview with the key hostage mediator and leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The supermodel's interview as a contributing editor for the British edition of GQ appears in February's edition.

Fernandez and Campbell devoted most of their talk Friday to the hostages, state news agency Telam said.

Campbell was quoted by Telam as effusively praising her host after the midday meeting, calling Argentina's famously fashionable president "accessible" and "very strong."

"It's the first time I've met with a woman president and now I understand why she is president," Campbell was quoted as saying.

Fernandez made greeting celebrities and world leaders a trademark of a novel presidential campaign that helped win her an October election. With a penchant for chic European dresses and coiffeured hair, Fernandez's own fashions are widely watched in Argentina, where she began a four-year term last month.

# Publisher reviewing plagiarism claims

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Two days after dismissing allegations that romance writer Cassie Edwards lifted material from other sources, publisher Signet Books has decided "the situation deserves further review."

"Our original comments were based on Signet's review of a limited selection of passages," according to a statement issued Friday by Signet, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA).

"We believe the situation deserves further review. Therefore we will be examining all of Ms. Edwards' books that we publish, and based on the outcome of that review we will take action to handle the matter accordingly. We want to make it known that Signet takes any and all allegations of plagiarism very seriously."

A romance novel Web site, http://www.smartbitchestrashybooks.com , has posted numerous excerpts from Edwards' novels and placed them alongside passages from reference books and magazines that were found by using the Google search program.

Penguin Group (USA) had said Wednesday that Edwards had "done nothing wrong" and that any use of other texts was protected by "fair-use doctrine."

Nora Roberts, the genre's most prominent writer, told The Associated Press on Thursday that "it seems clear Ms. Edwards copied considerable portions of previously published work and used them in her books without attribution to the original source.

"By my definition, copying another's work and passing it as your own equals plagiarism. As a writer, a reader and a victim of plagiarism, I feel very strongly on this issue. I'm not a lawyer, but I can't see it as fair use, or fair anything when one writer takes another's work," Roberts, who also is published by Penguin Group (USA), wrote in an e-mail.

In 1997, romance novelist Janet Dailey acknowledged taking material from Roberts, saying that "my essentially random and non-pervasive acts of copying are attributable to a psychological problem that I never even suspected I had."

Edwards has written more than 100 novels in the last 25 years and, according to her publisher, has more than 10 million copies of her work in print. She usually writes about American Indians, but has also written about pirates and the Civil War.

In a phone interview earlier in the week, the author told the AP that she indeed "takes" material from other works, but said she didn't know she was supposed to credit her sources. She then asked her husband to get on the phone. Charles Edwards said the author only gets "ideas" from other books and does not "lift passages."

One example cited by the romance Web site compares a description of black-footed ferrets in "Shadow Bear," which came out last year, with similar text from a 2005 article in Defenders Magazine, a quarterly published by Defenders of Wildlife, a conservation organization.

"I'm glad that our magazine has inspired others to write about endangered wildlife," Defenders editor Mark Cheater said in a statement Friday. "But I'd like to note that our articles are copyrighted, and those who wish to reuse parts or all of these stories need to seek permission first."

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112 SEWER, HAND (M 6159)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

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2 SUPERVISOR (M 6160)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical provided; workers compensation coverage & free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

15 SINGER (M 6161)
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10 DANCER (M 6162)
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2 SEWING MACHINE REPAIRER (M 6163)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; provided workmen's compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Yong Jia Corp. @288-3839.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (M 6164)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Charge by the employer $100.00/housing; charge by the employer $100.00/food & medical benefits. Contact: Mr. & Mrs. Antonio T. Lim &/or Carmen Ong. @234-1629.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (M 6165)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; medical benefits & workmen's compensation. Contact: Transamerica (Saipan) Corporation @234-1629.

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1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (MANAGER) (M 6166)
Salary:$650.00-$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: JAP Professional Corp. dba GEMS (Guam Electrical Material Supply) @235-5902.

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4 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (M 6167)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: American Global Voice Ltd. @233-8119.

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**1 PACKER (M 6170)**
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**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.**

**/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

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**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
**RFP: RFP08-DPW-023**

**SUBMISSION: JANUARY 30, 2008** **TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

**"SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MARPI SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY"**

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ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

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| | |
|---|---|
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|---|---|
| • 1st position | $13 |
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| • Up to 6 positions | $5 |
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LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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**Job Vacancy Announcements**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

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### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Apartment for rent: 2br, 1bt, 24hrs water, Koblerville • $230/month-no deposit. Tel.: 288-0728 look for Edson

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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2 AUTO MECHANIC (SUN 1503)
Salary:$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 CARPENTER (SUN 1504)
Salary:$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1505)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expenses & worker compensation. Contact: C&R Corporation dba C&R Distributors @235-7379.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (SUN 1506)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Medical expenses & worker compensation. Contact: C&R Corporation dba C&R Distributors @235-7379.

1 SALES PERSON (SUN 1507)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Ludivico A. Estrada Jr. dba JLE Catering @288-5646.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (SUN 1508)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Ludivico A. Estrada Jr. dba JLE Catering @288-5646.

1 COOK (SUN 1509)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Ludivico A. Estrada Jr. dba JLE Catering @288-5646.

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1 COOK (SUN 1511)
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5 WAITRESS/WAITER (SUN 1512)
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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1513)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

1 ACCOUNTANT (INSURANCE) (SUN 1514)
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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1515)
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1 CUSTOMER SERVICE REP. (SUN 1516)
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1 ACCOUNTANT (SUN 1517)
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1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (SUN 1518)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: USA Corporation @323-1076.

1 GARBAGE COLLECTOR (SUN 1519)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: USA Corporation dba Speed Trash @323-1076.

1 PRIVATE DUTY NURSE (SUN 1520)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Sook Lan Wong @234-1857.

1 HOUSEWORKER (SUN 1521)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provide housing; employer provide food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Sook Lan Wong @234-1857.

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (SUN 1522)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan @235-5982.

1 CARPENTER (SUN 1523)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 MASON (SUN 1524)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

2 ARCHITECT (SUN 1525)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 CARPENTER (SUN 1526)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 ELECTRICIAN (SUN 1527)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 PLUMBER (SUN 1528)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

4 COOK (SUN 1529)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Julian Salalila dba Julian's Fastfood and Grill @287-0853.

1 CAREGIVER (SUN 1530)
Salary:$300.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Luisa K. Angey @288-2681.

**1 FASTFOOD WORKER (ATTENDANT) (SUN 1531)**
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Danilo E. Asiatico @288-1681.

**1 FASTFOOD WORKER (SERVER) (SUN 1532)**
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Danilo E. Asiatico @288-1681.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (SUN 1533)**
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided by the company; self provided food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Mascot Corporation @235-2998.

**2 BEAUTICIAN (SUN 1534)**
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Magdalena Orbino dba Janine Beauty Shop @233-1041.

**1 WAITER (SUN 1535)**
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Resort Service Inc. dba ESY Kitchen @233-3550.

**1 INSTRUCTOR (JAPANESE LANGUAGE) (SUN 1536)**
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee to provide own food; workmen's compensation insurance & medical expense. Contact: Nippon Pacific Resource Center, Inc. @234-7220.

**1 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (SUN 1537)**
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self provided food; workmen compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Pacific Blue Corporation dba PC Outlet CNMI @233-0168.

*NEW* Rattan Furniture
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791,
433-9616, 285-7446

DEER AND TENT FOR SALE
DEER: 1 MALE & FEMALE with CALF
$2,600.00 OR BEST OFFER
TENT: 1 12X24 IN GOOD CONDITION
$700.00 OR BEST OFFER
Call Tony Joe @ 288-1350

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PSYCHIC GABRIELA IS A GOD GIFTED HEALER AND MIRACLE WORKER; REUNITES LOVERS; SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS GUARANTEED, 26-YEARS EXPERIENCE; REMOVE ALL NEGATIVITY; NEVER FAILED; CALLED ALL ENEMIES BY NAME; FREE READING. CALL 214-586-5685

**Saipan Chamber of Commerce**
## Coordinator

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for a methodical and organized individual with initiative and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

**Job duties include:**

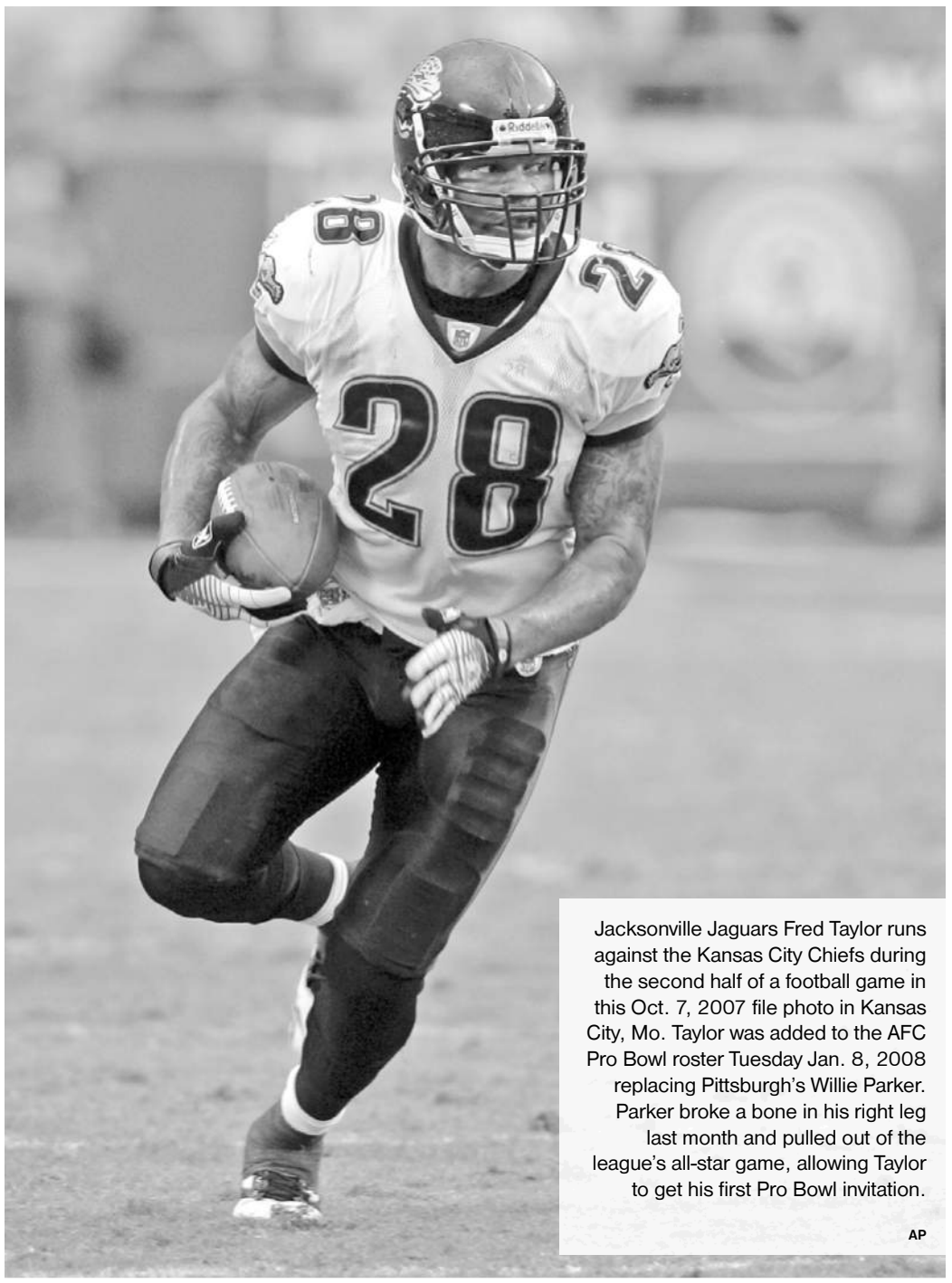
- Performance of general office skills
- Ability to analyze and critique legislation, letters, and other documents
- Ability to work and communicate with various governmental agencies
- Provision of direct assistance to multiple Chamber committees
- Preparation of financial invoices; recordation of financial transactions
- Management of up-to-date, accurate, and organized files for committees, planning meetings, special projects, and workshops
- Supporting the Executive Director, Board of Directors, committees, and members

This is a highly demanding and challenging position. Successful applicants must be adept at working and communicating with the public, must be able to handle many projects simultaneously, and must be able to take initiative and work independently under the general direction of the Executive Director.

**Minimum requirements:**

- U.S. citizenship
- Excellent work ethic
- Valid CNMI driver's license, insurance, and own working vehicle
- Flexibility in work schedule
- Strong communication skills, including ability to read, write, and speak clearly in grammatically-correct English
- Competence in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook; working knowledge of computers and other office equipment
- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable

Salary commensurate with experience. Application deadline is **Friday, January 18, 2008**. Application form available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or online at www.saipanchamber.com.



Jacksonville Jaguars Fred Taylor runs against the Kansas City Chiefs during the second half of a football game in this Oct. 7, 2007 file photo in Kansas City, Mo. Taylor was added to the AFC Pro Bowl roster Tuesday Jan. 8, 2008 replacing Pittsburgh's Willie Parker. Parker broke a bone in his right leg last month and pulled out of the league's all-star game, allowing Taylor to get his first Pro Bowl invitation.

AP

# Jaguars' Taylor gets first Pro Bowl trip

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—Jaguars running back Fred Taylor lost his title as the best player to never make the Pro Bowl.

He was added to the AFC roster Tuesday, replacing Pittsburgh's Willie Parker. Parker broke a bone in his right leg last month and pulled out of the league's all-star game, allowing Taylor to get his first Pro Bowl invitation.

Taylor finished fourth in balloting last month and was made the first alternate. He initially thought he missed out on a trip to Hawaii for the 10th consecutive season. But then Parker injured his leg two days after rosters were announced.

"Whenever it came up, I said I'd cross that bridge whenever I get to it," Taylor said Tuesday. "Now it's here. It doesn't change my approach at all. My team has been excited ever since I guess they understood what happened to Willie that particular week."

Taylor ranks 17th on the NFL's all-time rushing list and had been the only player in the top 49 to never make it to Honolulu.

Taylor said finally making the Pro Bowl was enjoyable, but it won't help the Jaguars defeat unbeaten New England in the divisional round of the AFC playoffs Saturday night.

"I don't think it's going to do anything for us this week playing a team the caliber of the Patriots," he said. "It's good to see that it's there, but it doesn't change any of the routines."

Taylor ran for 1,202 yards this season and averaged a career-best 5.4 yards per carry—better than AFC selections LaDainian Tomlinson, Joseph Addai and Parker—and finished the regular season with five consecutive 100-yard games.

He also had two of the four longest runs in the league this season.

He ran 16 times for 48 yards and a touchdown last week at Pittsburgh before leaving the game in the fourth quarter because of leg cramps.

The Jaguars entered the fourth period with an 18-point lead, then watched it evaporate when the Steelers scored three consecutive touchdowns. Jacksonville pulled out a 31-29 victory after quarterback David Garrard ran for 32 yards on fourth down, setting up Josh Scobee's 25-yard field goal.

"Thankfully we won the game," Taylor said. "I don't think I ever would have forgiven myself for that. But it really didn't hurt us."

Taylor said he didn't know what caused the cramps, but added they became painful after he ran about 60 yards following one of Garrard's interceptions.

"I really locked up after that," Taylor said. "I'll just try to hydrate a little bit more, eat a little bit better. I thought I did everything by the book. It was just something that happened."

So was getting to the Pro Bowl.

Taylor initially considered turning down a Pro Bowl invitation if either Tomlinson, Addai or Parker couldn't make the trip for the Feb. 10 game—he even said "maybe the Pro Bowl doesn't deserve Fred Taylor"—but his wife convinced him otherwise.

So he gladly accepted the offer Tuesday.

"He's very excited about receiving that honor," coach Jack Del Rio said. "We're happy for him. Fred's been one of the all-time greats here in Jacksonville. We're very happy for him individually. But I think Fred would tell you he's most excited right now about the opportunity to pursue a championship."

# Illini's Mendenhall enters NFL draft

**SKOKIE, Ill.** (AP)—Rashard Mendenhall will skip his senior year at Illinois and enter the NFL draft after rushing for a school-record 1,681 yards while leading the Illini to the Rose Bowl.

"I am blessed in the fact that I was able to have the kind of year that I had, and my team was able to have the kind of year it had," Mendenhall said at news conference Thursday at Niles West High School, where he played before joining the Illini.

After five straight losing seasons, Illinois went 9-4 and upset No. 1 Ohio State in Columbus late in the season on the way to its first Rose Bowl appearance in 24 years. Although the season ended with a 49-17 loss to Southern California, Mendenhall went out in style.

He broke off a 79-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter and turned a screen pass into a 55-yard gain a few minutes later. He finished with 155 yards on 17 carries and caught five passes for 59 yards.

Besides setting the school's single-season rushing mark, the 5-foot-11 Mendenhall also set records for rushing touchdowns (17), total touchdowns (19), 100-yard games (eight), all-purpose yards (1,999) and scoring (114 points) in his first season as the Illini's featured back.

Mendenhall is confident he'll be drafted in the first round after getting feedback from the NFL, and some draft experts expect him to go that high.

The list of running backs already includes Texas' Jamaal Charles, Michigan's Mike Hart, Tulane's Mike Forte and Rutgers' Ray Rice. And it could get longer if West Virginia's Steve Slaton and Arkansas' Darren McFadden, a two-time Heisman Trophy runner-up, skip their senior seasons.

"I'm just confident in my abilities and where I'll go in the draft," Mendenhall said.

Mendenhall probably would have been a candidate for the Heisman Trophy had he returned, and Illinois would have been a favorite in the Big Ten. The Illini still could contend with quarterback Juice Williams leading the offense.

"Rashard had an amazing season," coach Ron Zook, who is in Hawaii for the Hula Bowl, said in a statement. "His performance this year showed that he will be a very talented back at the next level. I am excited for Rashard as he enters this next phase of his football career. I can't thank him enough for his dedication to the Illinois football program and wish him nothing but the best in the NFL."

# Marketer says he spoke with Bush in '05

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A sports marketing agent claims he spoke with Reggie Bush about developing a Web site before the Southern California tailback played his final game for the Trojans and won the Heisman.

Ben Delanoy said he outlined plans in a phone call to Bush in early December of 2005.

"I said: `Listen, you're one of the biggest names out there. You could be making a lot of money through this thing. We'll get your jersey on sale there and autographed items, pretty much soup to nuts,'" Delanoy told Yahoo! Sports for a report published Thursday.

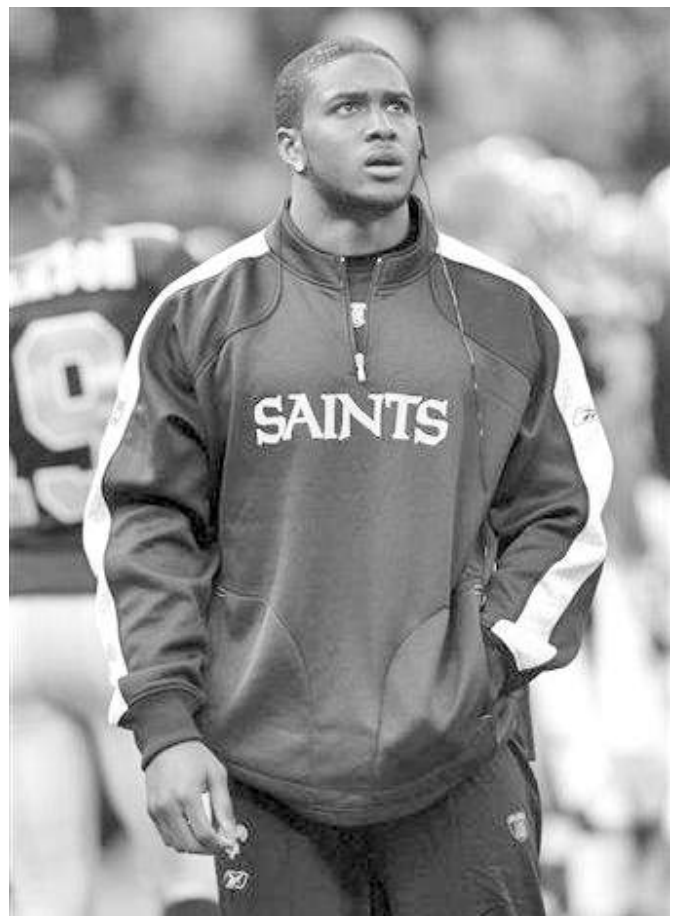
Delanoy contended that David Caravantes, an agent and officer of New Era Sports and Entertainment, took part in the three-way call.

Caravantes denied the conversation took place and said he had spoken with Bush only once.

"Whatever that guy (Delanoy) is saying is absolutely false," Caravantes told Yahoo! Sports.

Delanoy is now CEO of New Level Sports Marketing. A call by The Associated Press to Delanoy at the New Level offices in Plant City, Fla., wasn't immediately returned Friday.

The report comes on the heels of a new book, "Tarnished Heisman," that the authors claim contain transcripts of conversations that Lake secretly recorded between himself, Bush and Bush's stepfather, Lamar Griffin. In many of the transcripts, Lake and Griffin discuss money and payment.



AP

New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush watches the action from the sidelines during their NFL football game with the Arizona Cardinals in New Orleans in this Dec. 16, 2007 file photo. A San Diego sports marketer claims in a new book that he gave former Southern California running back Reggie Bush nearly US$300,000 in cash while Bush was still in college.

New Era, now defunct, was founded in November of 2005 and sought to make Bush its major client. Founders Lloyd Lake and Michael Michaels have said they provided Bush and his family with nearly $300,000 in cash and other benefits while he was still playing at USC.

Bush did not sign with New Era, but with established sports marketer Mike Ornstein.

Michaels reached an out-of-court settlement with Bush. Lake is suing Bush to recoup $291,600 in cash and gifts that Bush and his parents allegedly accepted during Bush's sophomore and junior seasons.

Yahoo! Sports also published copies of 2005 documents that link Bush to a two-night stay at the Venetian Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas, where he charged $623.63 Reggie Bush to Michaels' credit card.

The NCAA and Pac-10 are investigating whether the player and his parents took improper benefits. Bush, who could lose his Heisman if the NCAA determines that he violated rules, has denied any wrongdoing.

USC's football program could face penalties if it is determined that it violated rules. There has been no indication that the school committed any violations.

# Garnett leads Celtics past Nets

**EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey** (AP)—Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 11 rebounds, Paul Pierce added 18 points and the Boston Celtics beat the New Jersey Nets 86-77 on Friday night for their 30th win of the season.

Ray Allen scored 16 points as Boston (30-4) matched the 1959-60 champion Celtics for the best start in franchise history.

Richard Jefferson led the Nets with 17 points, Vince Carter had 16 and Josh Boone added 14 and a career-high 16 rebounds. Jason Kidd just missed another triple-double with 11 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists.

The Nets left a lot of points on the free-throw line where they were 9-for-24. New Jersey also struggled from the floor in the final quarter, going 3-for-19. Boston outscored New Jersey 23-9 in the fourth.

AP

New Jersey Nets' Richard Jefferson, right, reaches for a loose ball next to Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Friday night, Jan. 11, 2008, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Celtics beat the Nets 86-77

### Cavaliers 113, Bobcats 106, 2OT

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored eight of his 31 points in the second overtime, and pulled down a career-high 19 rebounds to lead the Cavaliers.

James' 30-footer gave the Cavaliers a 103-102 lead early in the second overtime. He followed with a free throw and a jumper before Damon Jones' 3-pointer from the corner gave Cleveland a 109-102 lead with 1:27 left, putting the game away.

Anderson Varejao, who was questionable going into the game because of knee and Achilles' tendon injuries, grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds and scored 16 points for the Cavaliers.

### Rockets 113, Timberwolves 82

At Houston, Luis Scola had 22 points and nine rebounds and rookie Carl Landry had 15 points and 11 rebounds, both career highs, as the Rockets won for the seventh time in the nine games Tracy McGrady has missed with a left knee injury.

Yao Ming scored 15 points in only 28 minutes as the Rockets blew out the Timberwolves in the first half and cruised to their season-high fifth consecutive victory.

### Hornets 114, Heat 88

At New Orleans, Bobby Jackson made a career-high seven 3-pointers and finished with 25 points as the Hornets beat the Heat, 114-88.

### Wizards 102, Hawks 98, OT

At Atlanta, hours after commissioner David Stern took away an Atlanta win in the afternoon, the Hawks fell in overtime as Antawn Jamison scored 22 points and Caron Butler added 21 to lead Washington.

### Bulls 100, 76ers 97

At Philadelphia, Andres Nocioni scored 27 points, Joe Smith added 19 and Chicago rallied to beat the Sixers.

### Lakers 110, Bucks 105

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 16 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter despite a viral upper respiratory infection, Andrew Bynum had 25 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 110-105 for their season-high fifth straight victory.

### Mavs 90, Sonics 70

At Seattle. Dirk Nowitzki scored 20 points in just three quarters, Josh Howard added 18 and Dallas overcame some early shooting woes to beat the hapless Seattle SuperSonics 90-70 for the Mavericks' season-best sixth straight win.

### Warriors 116, Grizzlies 104

At Oakland, Calif., Monta Ellis made his first 11 shots and scored 27 points as the Golden State Warriors beat the Memphis Grizzlies for the fifth straight time, 116-104.

### Nuggets 113, Magic 103

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and Anthony Carter had 14 of his career high-tying 21 in the fourth quarter, lifting the Denver Nuggets to a 113-103 win over the Orlando Magic.

# One week later, Choi enjoys top view

**HONOLULU** (AP)—A different week, a different island and a much different view for K.J. Choi.

Seven days ago, Choi was bringing up the rear in the Mercedes-Benz Championship, last among 31 winners at Kapalua going into the weekend. On Friday, he closed with three straight birdies for a 5-under 65 and a three-shot lead in the Sony Open.

With half of the field on the course in the afternoon, Choi set the target.

He was at 11-under 129, three shot clear of Stephen Marino among those who played in the morning. Marino was atop the leaderboard for most of the morning until his momentum stalled with a bogey on the easiest hole, although he recovered for a 67.

Fred Funk, aided by a tip from his wife, finished birdie-eagle for a 64 to give the 51-year-old a decent chance before leaving the kids to play on the Champions Tour in Hawaii the next two weeks.

"Pretty good for an old guy," Funk said.

Choi is off to his best start ever at Waialae, where the second round has derailed him in the past. He was only 1 under for his round with five holes remaining until making four birdies, the last one a two-putt on the par-5 ninth.

That made him 25 shots better than his 36-hole start at Kapalua.

"After the third round (at the Mercedes), I really found my rhythm coming back," Choi said. "My putting was getting better, and I was actually motivated. I knew that I was going to play better than last week, but I didn't really think about being in the lead or anything."

Tadd Fujikawa was only thinking about making the cut.

Fujikawa, who last year at 16 became the youngest player in 50 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour, is now a professional and still without his first tournament earnings. He started his round in a tie for 124th, and likely needed at least 65 to have a chance.

Choi and Marino set the pace among early starters.

Marino is coming off a respectable rookie season in which he was 70th in the final FedEx Cup standings, only lacking a victory. But it taught him he belonged in the big leagues, and he set out to prove it anew at the Sony Open.

He holed a couple of birdie putts, hit a few irons close enough not to worry and was atop the leaderboard coming to the par-5 ninth, the easiest scoring hole on the course. But he found a bunker, with the ball on a slope, and just got it out into tricky rough. His chip ran by the hole, and Marino took a bogey that felt much worse.

"That kind of halted me a little bit, to make bogey on that hole," he said. "But I made a couple of long birdie putts earlier, and it all evens itself out in the end."

He only made one birdie the rest of the way, on the par-5 18th.

Funk was struggling with his iron play until wife Sharon gave him some advice he could visualize. She told him to keep his back to the target as long as he could, and it made perfect sense to Funk. His irons were clean, crisp and close, even if it took him a while to make a putt. Once he got that going, Funk hated to see the round end. He shot 30 on the back, reaching the green in two at No. 9 and making the eagle.

He was at 7-under 133.

Heath Slocum (69) was among a group at 134 that included Alejandro Canizares. Steve Stricker, at No. 3 the highest-ranked player in the field at the Sony Open, shot 65 to get himself back in the game at 4-under 136.

If he keeps his position, it might be a good omen for Choi. He was told by the PGA Tour that he has never lost a tournament the four times he has held a 36-hole lead.

This made him laugh.

"OK," he finally said. "I'll try."

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 30 | 4 | .882 | |
| Toronto | 19 | 17 | .528 | 12 |
| New Jersey | 18 | 18 | .500 | 13 |
| Philadelphia | 14 | 23 | .378 | 17 1/2 |
| New York | 9 | 26 | .257 | 21 1/2 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 23 | 15 | .605 | |
| Washington | 18 | 16 | .529 | 3 |
| Atlanta | 15 | 17 | .469 | 5 |
| Charlotte | 13 | 22 | .371 | 8 1/2 |
| Miami | 8 | 28 | .222 | 14 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 27 | 9 | .750 | |
| Cleveland | 19 | 18 | .514 | 8 1/2 |
| Indiana | 16 | 21 | .432 | 11 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 15 | 21 | .417 | 12 |
| Chicago | 14 | 20 | .412 | 12 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 25 | 11 | .694 | |
| San Antonio | 23 | 11 | .676 | 1 |
| New Orleans | 24 | 12 | .667 | 1 |
| Houston | 20 | 17 | .541 | 5 1/2 |
| Memphis | 10 | 26 | .278 | 15 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 22 | 13 | .629 | |
| Portland | 22 | 13 | .629 | |
| Utah | 20 | 17 | .541 | 3 |
| Seattle | 9 | 27 | .250 | 13 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 30 | .143 | 17 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Phoenix | 25 | 11 | .694 | |
| L.A. Lakers | 24 | 11 | .686 | 1/2 |
| Golden State | 21 | 16 | .568 | 4 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 14 | 20 | .412 | 10 |
| L.A. Clippers | 10 | 22 | .313 | 13 |

**Friday's Games**

Chicago 100, Philadelphia 97
Washington 102, Atlanta 98, OT
Toronto 99, New York 90
Boston 86, New Jersey 77
Cleveland 113, Charlotte 106, 2OT
New Orleans 114, Miami 88
Houston 113, Minnesota 82
Denver 113, Orlando 103
Dallas 90, Seattle 70
L.A. Lakers 110, Milwaukee 105
Golden State 116, Memphis 104

### SONY OPEN SCORES

**SECOND ROUND**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K.J. Choi | 64 | 65 |
| Kevin Na | 67 | 64 |
| Steve Marino | 65 | 67 |
| Fred Funk | 69 | 64 |
| Jimmy Walker | 65 | 68 |
| Heath Slocum | 65 | 69 |
| Brian Gay | 67 | 67 |
| Brad Adamonis | 66 | 68 |
| Alejandro Canizares | 67 | 67 |
| Chez Reavie | 68 | 66 |
| Jerry Kelly | 67 | 67 |
| Pat Perez | 69 | 66 |
| Jay Williamson | 67 | 68 |
| Rory Sabbatini | 66 | 69 |
| Chad Campbell | 66 | 69 |
| Carl Pettersson | 67 | 68 |
| Bob Estes | 69 | 66 |
| James Driscoll | 66 | 69 |
| Spencer Levin | 67 | 68 |
| J.P. Hayes | 66 | 70 |
| Jim McGovern | 71 | 65 |
| Steve Stricker | 71 | 65 |
| Troy Matteson | 69 | 67 |
| Briny Baird | 68 | 68 |
| Dustin Johnson | 68 | 68 |
| Doug LaBelle II | 67 | 69 |
| Shigeki Maruyama | 68 | 68 |
| John Riegger | 67 | 69 |
| Kenneth Ferrie | 66 | 70 |
| Mitsuhiro Tateyama | 66 | 70 |
| Vaughn Taylor | 67 | 70 |
| Matt Kuchar | 70 | 67 |
| Daniel Chopra | 66 | 71 |
| Zach Johnson | 67 | 70 |
| Mark Wilson | 72 | 65 |
| Daisuke Maruyama | 68 | 69 |
| Yusaku Miyazato | 68 | 69 |
| Yong-Eun Yang | 69 | 68 |
| Matt Jones | 68 | 69 |
| Tom Pernice Jr. | 70 | 67 |
| Dudley Hart | 68 | 69 |
| Shane Bertsch | 71 | 66 |
| Robert Gamez | 67 | 70 |
| Kevin Streelman | 68 | 69 |
| Chad Collins | 67 | 70 |
| Tim Wilkinson | 68 | 69 |
| Paul Azinger | 70 | 68 |
| Cameron Beckman | 67 | 71 |
| Stephen Ames | 70 | 68 |
| J.B. Holmes | 68 | 70 |
| John Merrick | 69 | 69 |
| Jason Allred | 69 | 69 |
| Jim Furyk | 68 | 70 |
| Vijay Singh | 70 | 68 |
| Tom Lehman | 70 | 68 |
| Steve Lowery | 66 | 72 |
| Jeff Maggert | 69 | 69 |
| Sean O'Hair | 69 | 70 |
| George McNeill | 68 | 71 |
| Bubba Watson | 70 | 69 |
| Jesper Parnevik | 69 | 70 |
| Martin Laird | 69 | 70 |
| Kiyoshi Miyazato | 69 | 70 |
| Patrick Sheehan | 71 | 68 |
| John Mallinger | 67 | 72 |
| Mark Calcavecchia | 68 | 71 |
| Parker McLachlin | 73 | 66 |
| Scott Sterling | 70 | 69 |
| Wen-Chong Liang | 70 | 66 |

*By The Associated Press*

### LOCAL SPORTS SCORES

**BUD CUP STANDINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| xy-Ol'Aces | 11 | 1 |
| y-Rock Steady | 10 | 2 |
| y-Suns | 10 | 2 |
| y-Sonics | 9 | 3 |
| y-Junior Nationals | 8 | 4 |
| y-Runnin Rebels | 6 | 6 |
| y-Bombers | 6 | 6 |
| y-D-I Ulloa's | 5 | 7 |
| PTI/FMI | 5 | 7 |
| G-Rollers I | 5 | 7 |
| G-Rollers II | 3 | 9 |
| Lali IV | 1 | 11 |
| Proa | 0 | 12 |

**x-clinch pennant**
**y-clinch playoff spot**

# The Week in Sports

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

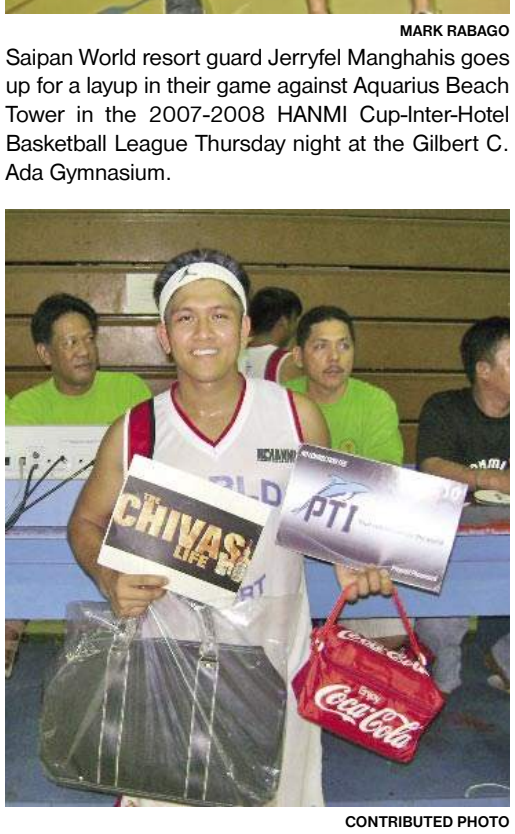
R.J. Macaranas finished eighth in the boys' 8-and-under division of the San Diego Junior Amateur Tournament held last Jan. 3 and 4 at the Sycuan Resort in San Diego, California.

JON PEREZ

Ji Hoon Heo prepares to serve in this file photo taken during his finals match against Jeff Race in last year's DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan World resort guard Jerryfel Manghahis goes up for a layup in their game against Aquarius Beach Tower in the 2007-2008 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan World Resort's Dennis Vinas proudly shows off the Chivas Life bag, PTI phone card, and gift pack courtesy of Coca-Cola he won for being adjudged MVP of their 2007-2008 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League game against Aquarius Beach Tower last Thursday.

JON PEREZ

Diane Camacho, left, and Jamie Vales pose for a photo after winning the Queen and Princess of the Lanes title Sunday night at the Capital Bowling Center.

JON PEREZ

Dexter Dillay of the Runnin' Rebels, center, is sandwiched by the defense of the CNMI Junior Nationals' Keone Chariton, left, and Bill Babauta in their game in the 2007 season of the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League on Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Tigers' Ed Santos throws a pitch in their game against the Korean Dreams in last week's final elimination round game in the Masters Baseball League game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

JON PEREZ

## Personal triumphs for Macaranas, Heo

### Bowling crowns champions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veteran kegler Diane Camacho and up-and-coming youth bowler Jamie Vales were crowned the 2007 Queen and Princess of the Lanes in last week's finals of the yearlong ten-pin tournament held at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

CNMI golf prodigy R.J. Macaranas and tennis wonder kid Ji Hoon Heo also made the CNMI proud after earning personal triumphs in their respective sports in separate off-island international tournaments.

Camacho, the 2005 champion, saved her best for last, throwing three straight strikes to pocket the 2007 title and snatch the crown away from defending champion Gina Sablan's clutches.

In the Prince/Princess of the Lanes, Vales, who followed in the footsteps of older sister Jerrie and father Roger, scored a stunning upset to claim the top prize.

Vales was seeded fourth but scored consecutive upset wins over the top-seeded Zack Cruz in the semifinals and the second ranked Jeremy Williams in their head-to-head championship match up.

Macaranas, meanwhile, settled for eighth place in the boys' 8-and-under division of the San Diego Junior Amateur Tournament held last Jan. 3 and 4 at the Sycuan Resort in San Diego, California.

The son of Richard and Becky Macaranas of Saipan shot a 66 and 68 for the two-day tournament to finish with a 134. He competed against 36 other junior players.

His 8-over 66 on the first round was fourth best and was good enough for Macaranas to be in the final group in the final round.

Top CNMI junior netter Heo made it to the quarterfinals of the 2008 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup but his bid of entering the Final Four ended when he lost to George Shepard, 3-6, 3-6, at the Albury Tennis Association courts in Towsend St. Albury, New South Wales.

Heo also played in the boys' 16-and-under doubles division where he teamed up with fellow International Tennis Federation Pacific Oceania Junior touring team member William O'Connell. They lost to the second-seeded pair of Joel Morrison and Ethan Scobe, 6-3, 3-6,4-10.

Heo also reached the semifinal round of the consolation draw of two age divisions in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament in Shepparton, Australia last Sunday where he lost to tougher opponents from the host team at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club.

In the local sporting scene, Joseph Jung lifted the G-Stars of coach Jose Tumaquip to a 62-60 win over the undefeated Junior Sonics in the finals of the 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jung missed two-pressure packed free throws and just made two points but made the shot that mattered most as the G-Stars ended the Sonics' six-game winning run.

It was a fitting revenge for the G-Stars after the Sonics dealt them their lone loss in the elimination round, a 73-51 thrashing. In the battle for third place, the San Antonio Sixers escaped with a 92-85 decision over the visiting Team Tinian.

Saipan Stevedore D9ers claimed the 2007 Masters Baseball League pennant, while the Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers scored consecutive wins to end the regular season at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The D9ers claimed the pennant and the top seeding in the playoffs. Team Rubak finished the season in second place with a 6-3 mark followed by the Tigers' 3-6 slate and the 1-8 record of the Viva Poker Korean Dreams.

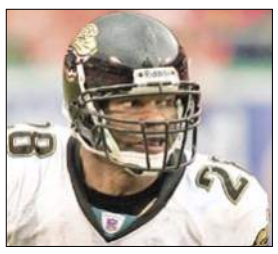
The D9ers will face the Dreams while Rubak battles the Tigers in the playoff schedule to be played this week.

JON PEREZ

Players and supporters of the G-Stars celebrate their championship victory in yesterday's finals of the 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

U.S. Army Maj. Lawrence Camacho, center, is joined by Wally Emul, from left, Eliseo "Chel" Castro, Terry and Bob Guerrero before the start of last week's Masters Baseball League game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



**Jaguars' Taylor gets first Pro Bowl trip**

Jaguars running back Fred Taylor lost his title as the best player to never make the Pro Bowl.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Bowling crowns champions**

Veteran kegler Diane Camacho and up-and-coming youth bowler Jamie Vales were crowned the 2007 Queen and Princess of the Lanes in last week's finals of the yearlong tenpin tournament held at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

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By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The D-1 Ulloa's completed the playoff cast of the 2007 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League after dispatching PTI/FMI, 102-88, Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ulloa's grabbed the eighth and last playoff spot with their 5-7 slate. They tied their victims and the Marianas Health Services G-Rollers I from eighth to 10th place but earned the chance to move on to the next round after having the greater quotient in the tiebreaker.

The Ulloa's will have a tough task ahead of them as they are scheduled to face the top seed and pennant winners Ol'Aces in Monday's first playoff match at 7pm.

Joining the Ol'Aces and Ulloa's in the playoffs are Rock Steady, Saipan Stevedore Suns, Southern Sonics, CNMI Junior Nationals, Runnin' Rebels, and the Bombers.

The Ulloa's, which is composed mostly of brothers and cousins, built an early lead that they never relinquished and was only threatened by PTI/FMI's consistent comeback bids in the first half.

They led by eight points after the first 10 minutes of the game then enjoyed a nine-point advantage, 52-43, at the half. That lead ballooned further to double-digits, 77-65, as the match enters the fourth period.

From there, the Ulloa's cruised to several double-digit leads in the fourth quarter to breeze past their opponents.

Joshua Sablan had season-highs of 34 points and seven 3-pointers to pace the Ulloa's while getting a lot of scoring support from three of his teammates.

All in all the Ulloa's buried 14 3-pointers in the entire game to fall five-shots short of the record made by the Ol'Aces this season. The Ol'Aces, with Elias Saralu draining 11 from downtown, had a season-high 19 3-pointers in their 134-87 win against PTI/FMI on Oct. 26.

Dave Sablan added 21 points with most of his points coming from fastbreak lay ups while John Sablan had four 3-pointers to end up with 17 markers.

Scrappy guard Henry Sablan scattered 13 points also for the Ulloa's.

Pando Muleta tallied 26 points to lead PTI/FMI while Ryan Sanciangco netted 21 more.

Jorge De Guzman chipped in 17 points while big man Ronald Delos Reyes was held to a season-low 11 markers.

**D-1 Ulloa's 102**—J. Sablan 34, D. Sablan 21, Jo. Sablan 17, H. Sablan 13, D. Palacios 7, F. Palacios 6, Tudela 4.

**PTI/FMI 88**—Muleta 26, Sanciangco 22, De Guzman 17, Delos Reyes 11, Factor 9, Aquino 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 31-23, 52-43, 77-65, 102-88.

Northern Marianas Athletics